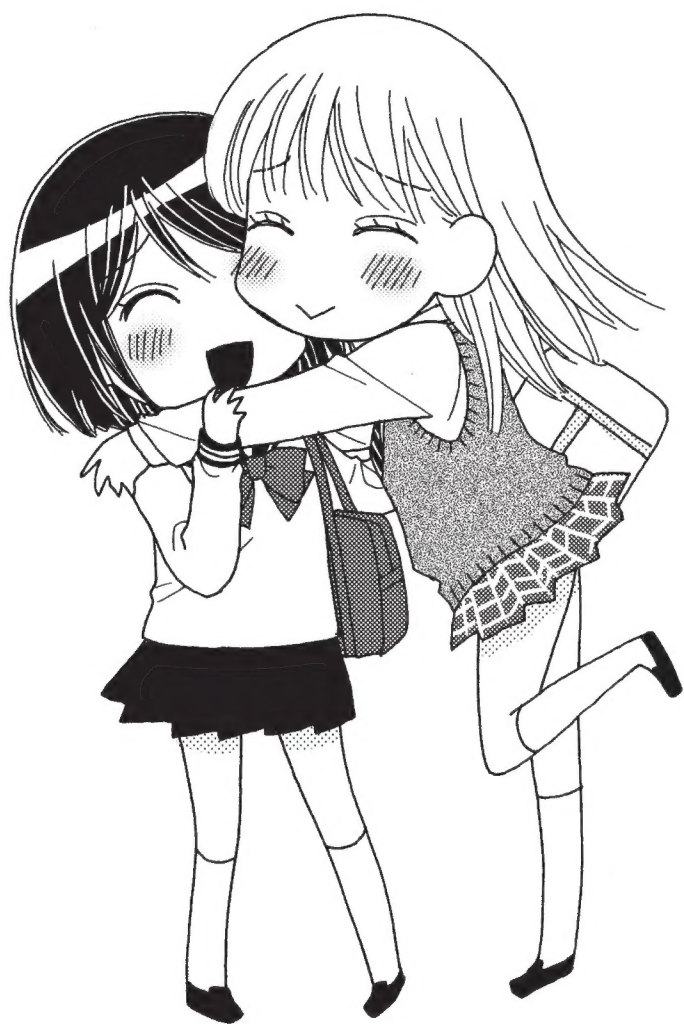


Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink

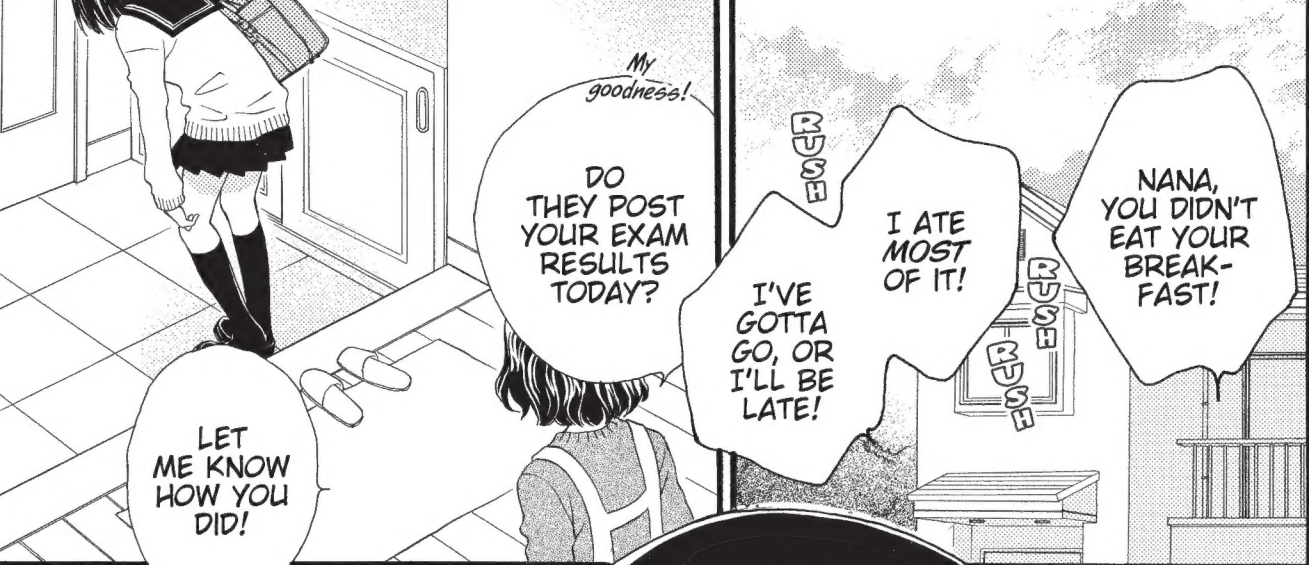
2



Story & Art by yuri icon **MILK MORINAGA**



*Kisses, Sighs, and
Cherry Blossom Pink.*



My goodness!

DO THEY POST YOUR EXAM RESULTS TODAY?

I'VE GOTTA GO, OR I'LL BE LATE!

I ATE MOST OF IT!

NANA, YOU DIDN'T EAT YOUR BREAKFAST!

LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID!



EXAMS ARE FINALLY OVER...

AND I GET TO RIDE MY USUAL BUS TODAY.

UH, SURE...

I'M HANGING OUT WITH A FRIEND AFTERWARD, SO I'LL BE HOME LATE.

SEE YA LATER!

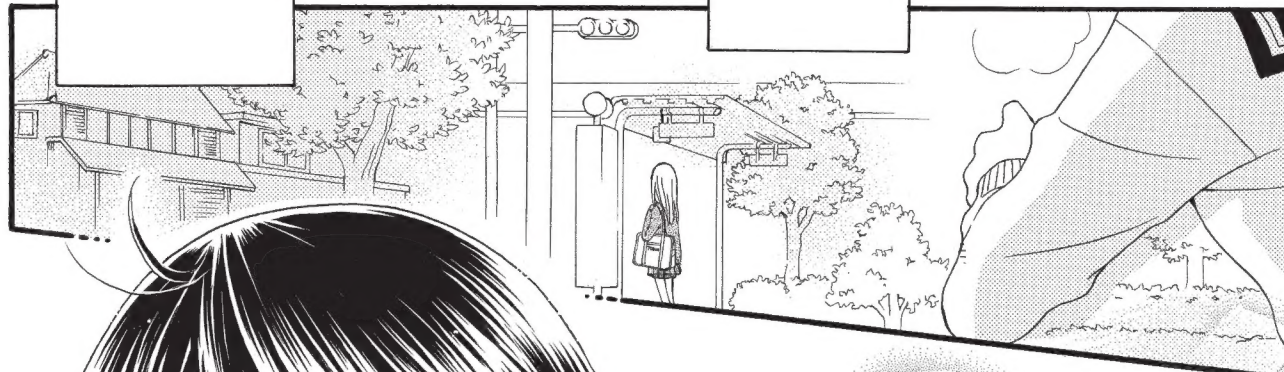
No Smoking



SO IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE
WE RODE
THE BUS
TOGETHER.

HITOMI'S
EXAMS
ENDED
JUST AS
MINE
STARTED...

AND OUR
SCHEDULES
NEVER
MATCHED
UP...



IT'S
BEEN
TEN
DAYS...

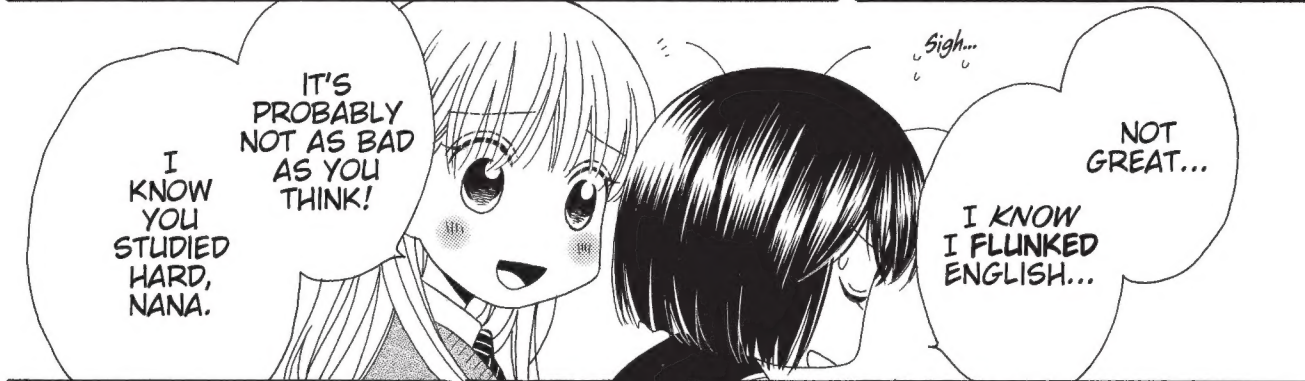
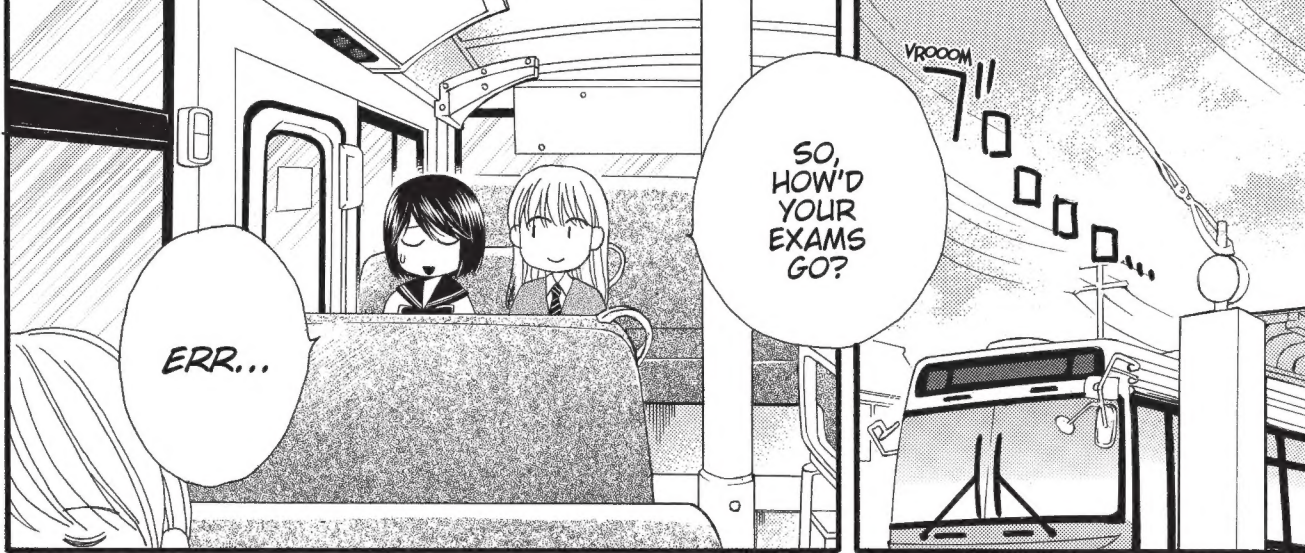
SINCE I
SAW HER
SMILE.

HITOMI!!



CHAPTER 8 SECRET LOVERS





AND
RIDE
TO THE
YAMANOTE
LINE
STATION
A LITTLE
WAYS
OUT.

THERE'S A CLOSER
TRAIN
STATION
THAT WE
COULD
JUST
WALK TO...

MY BEST
FRIEND
HITOMI
AND I LIVE
NEAR EACH
OTHER...

SO WE
ALWAYS
MEET AT
THE BUS
STOP...

AND WE
EMBROIDERED
THEIR
NAMES
ON THEIR
TOWELS,
BUT...

WE
MESSED
UP A
NAME.

OH
NO!!

*The team
captain,
of all
people.*

*That's not
good!*

BUT WE
ALWAYS
TAKE THE
LONGER
ROUTE...

JUST SO
WE CAN
SPEND
MORE
TIME TO-
GETHER.

WE
GAVE THE
THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS
SOME SPORT
TOWELS AS
GIFTS...

UH-
HUH.

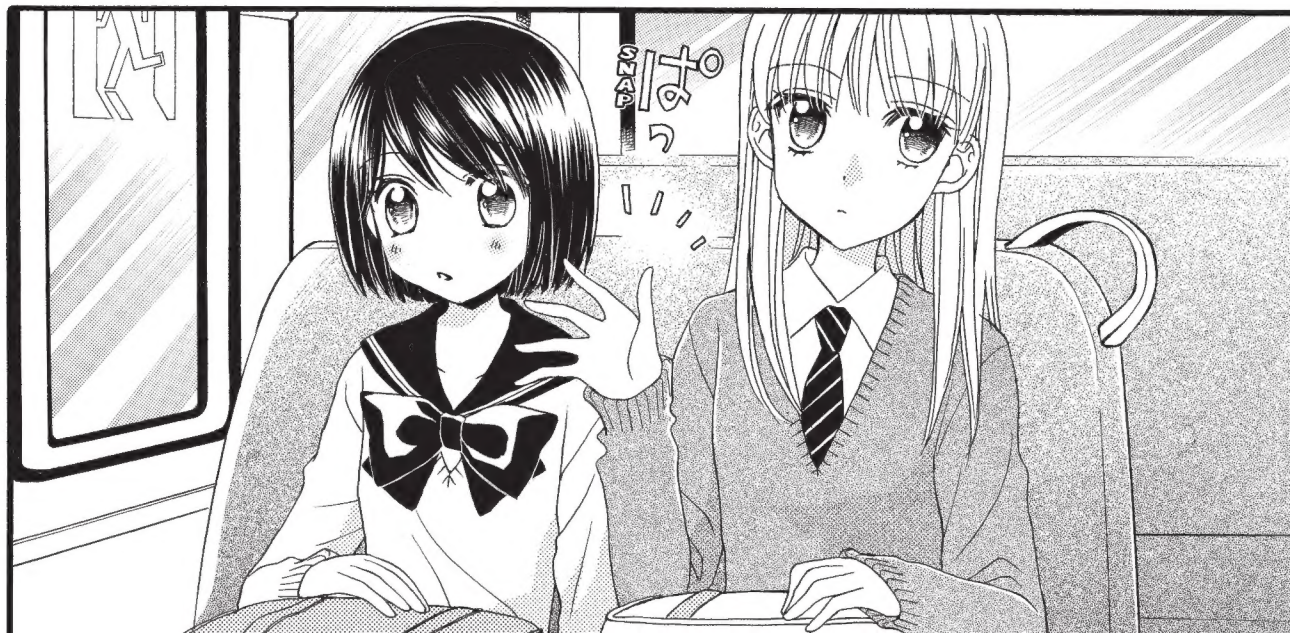
LUCKILY
ONE OF THE
FIRST YEAR
STUDENTS
KNOWS
EMBROIDERY,
SO SHE
FIXED IT.

WE
NOTICED
IT THAT
MORNING...

AND
TOTALLY
PANICKED!

KOHOKU
ROKUCHOME
DANCHIMAE,
KOHOKU
ROKUCHOME
DANCHIMAE...

SQUEEK









SO
TODAY'S
NO GOOD.

AH...

SORRY, BUT
PRACTICE
GOES LATE
TONIGHT...

AT LEAST
WE CAN
SEE EACH
OTHER
AFTER
SCHOOL.



SO
WE'RE
PRACTICING
REALLY
HARD ALL
WEEK.

WE HAVE
A GAME
AGAINST
JOUHOKU
GIRLS' HIGH
COMING
UP...

OH NO!
REALLY?

I
SEE...



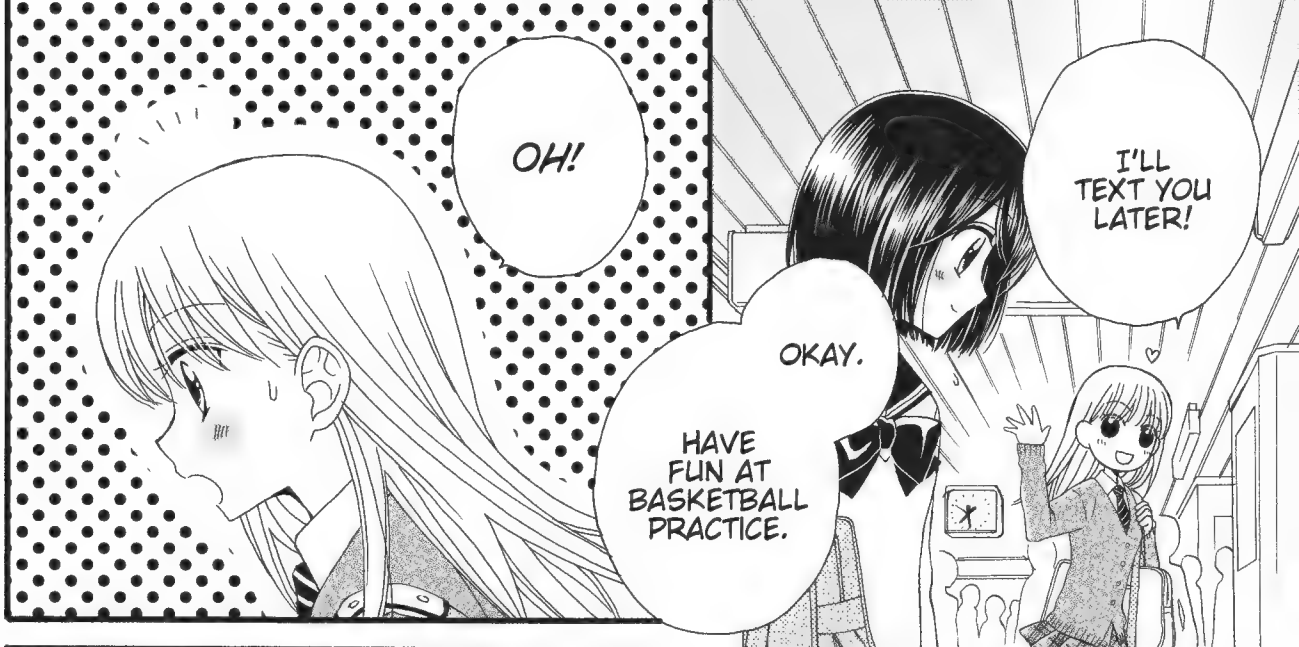
SURE!

IF YOU
CHEER FOR
ME, I KNOW
WE WON'T
LOSE!

HEY, I
HAVE AN
IDEA!

WHY
DON'T YOU
COME WATCH
OUR GAME
AGAIN?

西日暮里駅
Nishi-Nippori Station



*In Japan, March 14 is a chance for men to reciprocate for Valentine's Day gifts.





THAT'S
SO
SWEET...

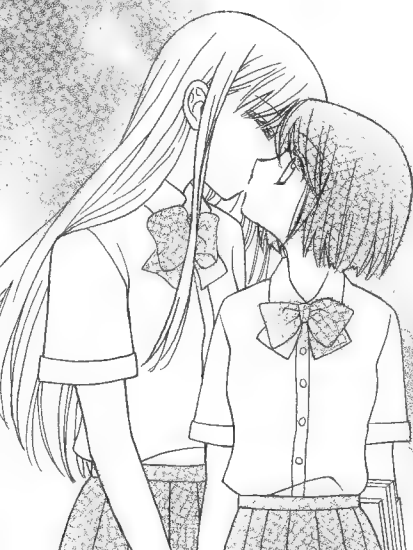
BUT
I'M STILL
BUMMED
THAT WE
CAN'T
MEET
AFTER
SCHOOL.

I KNOW
BASKET-
BALL'S
IMPORTANT
TO HER,
BUT...



I IGNORED
HITOMI'S TRUE
FEELINGS...

AND
PUSHED
HER
AWAY.



BUT...

I HAD MY
CHANCE.



SOME-
TIMES I
WISH...

HITOMI
WENT TO
SAKURAKAI
WITH ME.





THAT I
FINALLY
REALIZED...

IT WAS
ONLY
WHEN...

I
THOUGHT
I'D LOST
HER FOR
GOOD...

HOW
SPECIAL
SHE WAS
TO ME.



WE'VE
ALSO...

OH!
WHAT A
CUTE LIP
GLOSS...

MADE
LOVE...

WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...

BUT
THAT
DIDN'T
STOP US
FROM
FALLING
IN LOVE.

DOOOOM

あーん

GOOD MORNING, NANA-CHIN!

HI, EVERYONE.

Sakurakai Girls' High School

UH, MORN-ING...

I'M FINE...

HI...

NANA-CHIN...

HI, ABE-CHAN...

HOW ARE YOU?

WHO CARES ABOUT STUPID EXAMS?!

IN FACT...

EXAMS ...?

SO, WE'RE GETTING OUR EXAM RESULTS TODAY, HUH?

GUH...

Siiiiigh...

ABE-CHAN HAS BEEN DEPRESSED FOR A WHILE.

YOU KNOW WHAT?

300%



A telegram...?

OR
SEND A
TELEGRAM...

SO I CAN
ONLY CALL
HER HOME
PHONE...

SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE
A CELL
PHONE...

ぐんぐん

GLOOOOOM

SO I CAN
ONLY CALL
HER HOME
PHONE...

SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE
A CELL
PHONE...

GLOOOOOM

MAYBE
ABE-
CHAN'S
FEELINGS
FOR
TACHI-
BANA...

MAYBE
ABE-
CHAN'S
FEELINGS
FOR
TACHI-
BANA...

ARE THE
SAME
AS MY
FEELINGS
FOR
HITOMI.

DID
ABE-
CHAN...

OR DO
OTHER
STUFF
WITH
TACHI-
BANA-
SAN?

EVER
KISS...

OR DO
OTHER
STUFF
WITH
TACHI-
BANA-
SAN?

EVER
KISS...

GLANCE



ACTU-
ALLY...

ARE SEX
CRAZED
OR ANY-
THING...

ABOUT

IT'S
NOT LIKE
HITOMI
AND I...

WELL,
UHH...

WE'VE
ONLY
DONE IT
A FEW
TIMES.

I'M
NOT...

QUITE
SURE...



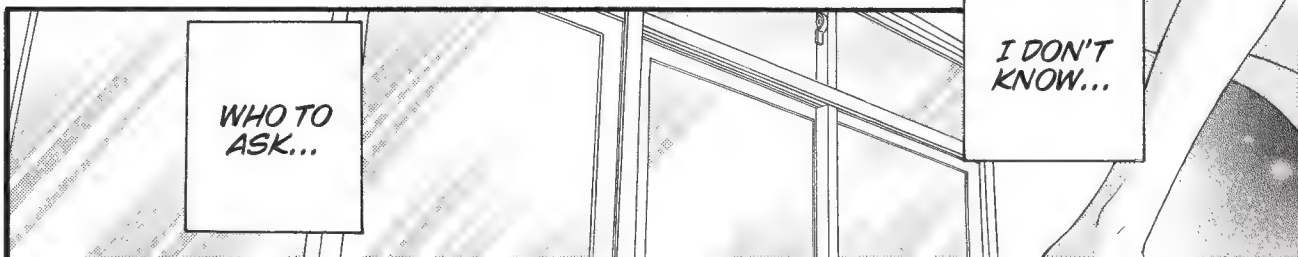
WHAT
EXACTLY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
DO...

FOR
IT TO
COUNT
AS
SEX?

WHEN
GIRLS
DO IT....

I HAVE A
LOT OF
QUES-
TIONS...

BUT...



WHO TO
ASK...

I DON'T
KNOW...





EH?!

KAGAMI-SAN,
THANKS
SO MUCH
FOR YOUR
HELP THE
OTHER DAY.

I
NEVER
KNEW
YOU DID
EMBROID-
ERY...

YOU DID
A GREAT
JOB FIXING
THE GIFT
TOWELS!

SMILE

THANKS
TO YOU, WE
WERE ABLE
TO GIVE THEM
TO THE
THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS
AFTER ALL.



DON'T
MENTION
IT!!

OH...

IT WAS
NOTHING,
REALLY!!

HEY,
KAGAMI...

YOU'RE
GONNA
PLAY
IN THE
GAME,
TOO.

YEAH!
WE NEED
TO DO
OUR BEST
TOGETHER!

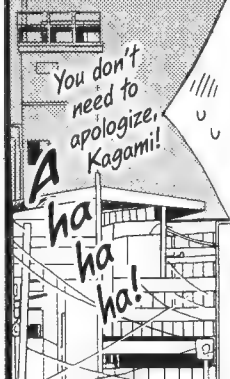
Y-YES, OF
COURSE!!

I'M
SORRY!!

GOOD
LUCK
IN NEXT
WEEK'S
GAME!

FUJIMORI-
SEMPAI...

UHM...



You don't
need to
apologize,
Kagami!

ha
ha
ha!



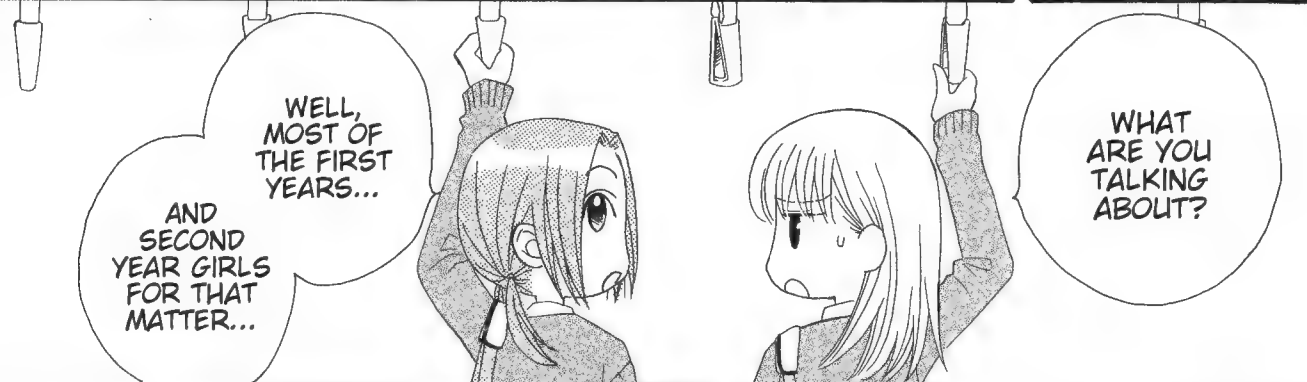
YOU
KNOW,
HITOMI...

KAGAMI'S
REALLY
GOT A THING
FOR YOU.

GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK

GA-CLACK

GA-CLACK



WELL,
MOST OF
THE FIRST
YEARS...

AND
SECOND
YEAR GIRLS
FOR THAT
MATTER...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



BUT
KAGAMI...

ONLY
HAS EYES
FOR YOU.



Kawashima
Next team
captain

TEND TO
FALL FOR
EITHER...

KAWASHIMA
OR KANOU.

YEAH,
THEY'RE
PRETTY
POPULAR.

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

173cm

Kanou-san
Loves Slam
Dunk



KAGAMI
MADE IT
CLEAR IT
WASN'T
LIKE THAT,
REMEMBER?

DON'T BE
STUPID!

MAYBE
SHE'S
ACTUALLY IN
LOVE WITH
YOU!

YEAH, BUT
SHE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
LYING.

BUT...



WOULD
YOU GO
OUT WITH
ANOTHER
GIRL?

.....



PFFFT!

I KNOW,
RIGHT?

HAHAHA!
HELL NO!!

IT WOULD
BE SOOOOO
WEIRD!

Ha
ha
ha!

Stop it
already!

NO
ONE...

UNDER-
STANDS.

Noisy
teens...



IT'S
SOME-
THING...

BETWEEN
JUST THE
TWO OF
US.



WE'RE
CONNECT-
ED...

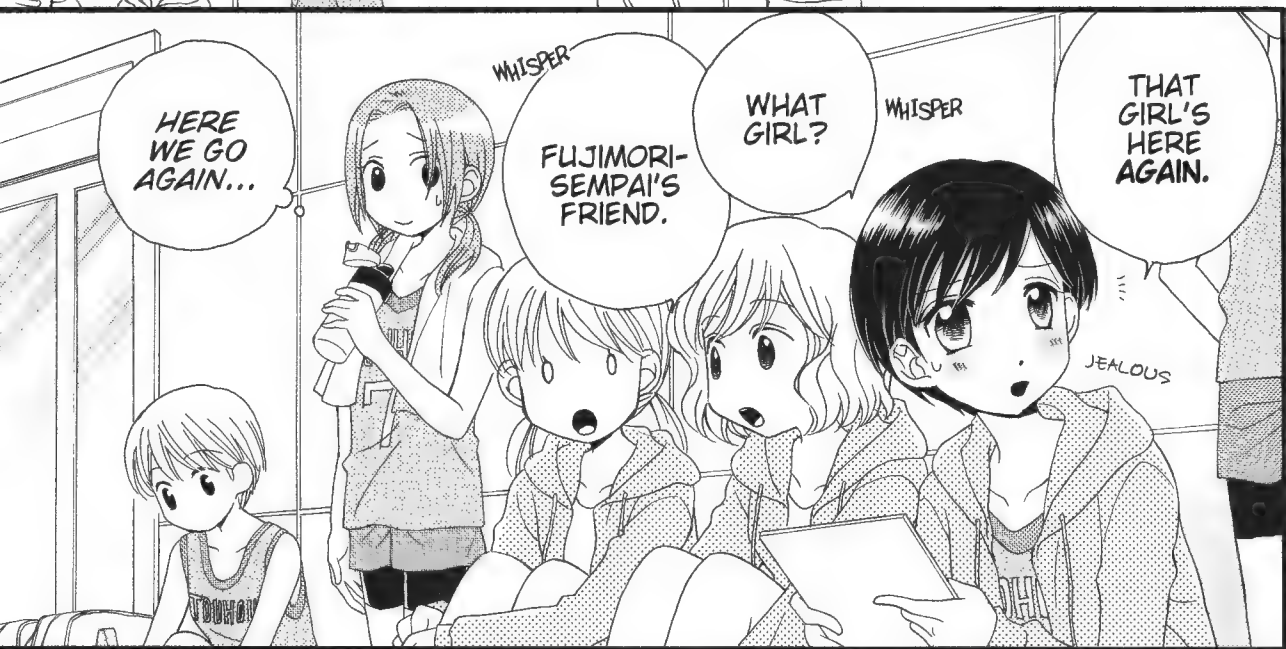
BY A
STRONG
BOND...

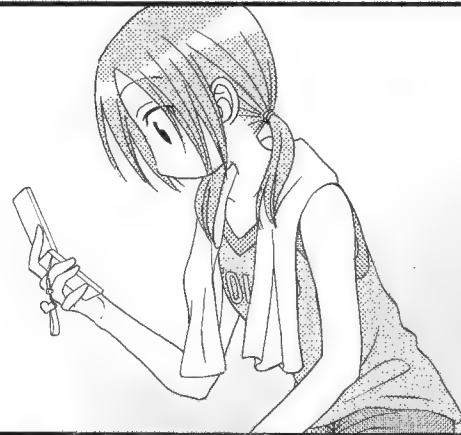
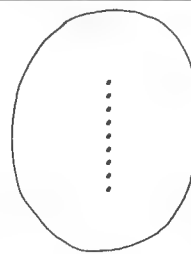
THAT
NO
ONE
ELSE
HAS.



THAT WAS THE
ONLY THING THAT
MATTERED...

OUR ONLY TRUTH.







くちびるためいきさくらいろ

KUCHIBIRUTAMETEKISAKURAIRO

AFTER
SPRING
BREAK WE
BECAME
THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS.

TIME
WAS
GOING
BY SO
QUICKLY.

AN ONLINE
MESSAGE
BOARD?

FOR
WHAT?

OUTSIDERS
2011/05/12 (THU)
AT OUR LAST GAME,
THERE WAS A STUDENT
FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL
WHO CAME TO OUR BENCH!
OUTSIDERS SHOULDN'T
BE ALLOWED IN OUR AREA!
QUESTION ☆ - MIKA
2011/05/08 (SUN)
LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE NEXT GAME.
NOT SURE HOW
TO GET THERE.
PLEASE TELL ME.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
WROTE IT,
BUT...

HM?

Oh.
THE
BASKET-
BALL TEAM
HAS A WEB-
PAGE?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

IT'S PART
OF OUR
BASKETBALL
TEAM'S
WEBPAGE!

COACH
YOSHI
WOULD
CRY
IF SHE
HEARD
YOU...

SHE
PUTS IN
A LOT OF
EFFORT
UPDATING
IT.

YOU CAN SEE
THE FORUM
TOPICS ON
YOUR CELL.

TAKE A
LOOK.

CHAPTER 9 CLASSMATE





DON'T YOU WANT ME TO CHEER FOR YOU?

WHAT?

DON'T COME TO THE GAME NEXT WEEK?




SO EVEN IF YOU CAME...

I MIGHT NOT HAVE TIME TO TALK TO YOU.

I DO!
I REALLY DO, BUT...

I'M A THIRD YEAR NOW, AND I HAVE A LOT MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.



THERE ARE SOME ERRANDS I NEED TO DO ANYWAY, SO I'LL DO THAT INSTEAD.

IT'S OKAY, I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO THE TEAM.

AND ABE-CHAN WANTED TO GO SHOPPING WITH ME, SO...



AND I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME WITH YOU AFTER ANYWAY.

I DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS DAY OFF.

.....



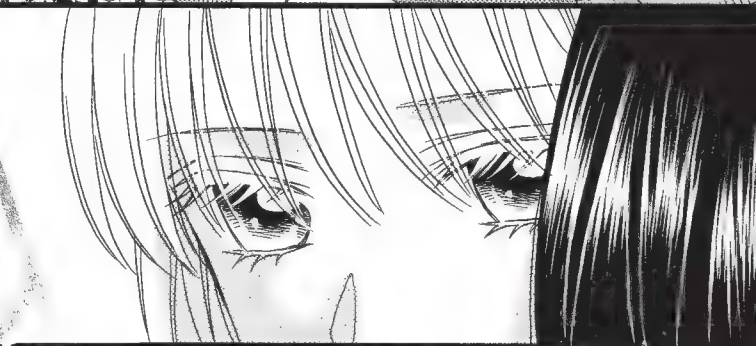
I'M
SORRY...

GRAB

?

IT'S OKAY,
REALLY!

YOU AND
NANA-
CHAN ARE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS,
RIGHT?

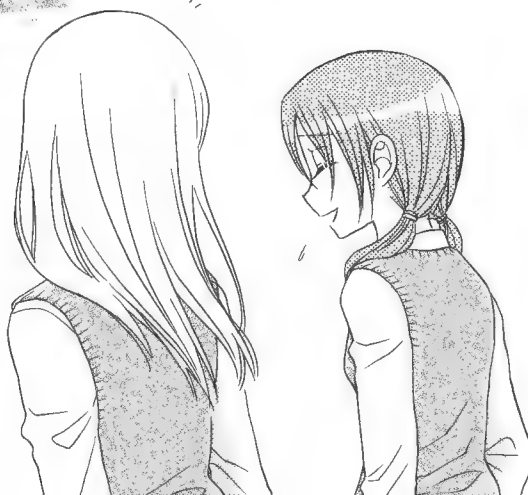


UM,
I'M NOT
SURE HOW
TO SAY
THIS--

IT'S NICE OF
HER TO BRING
YOU SNACKS
AND STUFF...

BUT...

SAY
WHAT?





ARE
YOU
GUYS...

REALLY
JUST
FRIENDS?



THAT'S
NASTY!!
IT'S NOT
LIKE
THAT!!



I'M SORRY,
I KNOW IT'S
NONE OF MY
BUSINESS...

IT'S YOUR
LIFE, YOU CAN
DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT.



I MEAN,
THIS IS AN
ALL GIRLS'
SCHOOL...

SO THERE
ARE RUMORS
LIKE THAT ALL
THE TIME.



WE ARE
REALLY
CLOSE...
BUT WE'RE
MORE LIKE
SISTERS
THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE.

OH...

SO, YEAH,
THAT'S ALL
I WANTED
TO SAY...

NANA-
CHAN...

LIVES
NEAR MY
HOUSE AND
UNTIL HIGH
SCHOOL WE'D
ALWAYS GONE
TO THE SAME
SCHOOLS.



IT'S
OKAY. I
SHOULD BE
FOCUSING
MORE ON
THE GAME
ANYWAY.

THANKS
FOR THE
HEADS UP!



BUT
I GUESS
SOME PEOPLE
DON'T WANT
STUDENTS FROM
OTHER SCHOOLS
HANGING OUT
NEAR OUR
BENCH.



THE
COMMENTS
ON THE
FORUM
AREN'T
TOO BAD
NOW...

BUT THEY
COULD GET
WORSE IF
WE'RE NOT
CAREFUL.

SURE!









AND
THERE
AREN'T
TOO MANY
STUDENTS
AROUND.

DON'T
WORRY!
MY TEAM
DOESN'T
HAVE
PRACTICE
TODAY...

ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS? WHAT
IF WE GET
CAUGHT?

UHM...

Let's
go!

THERE'S
A SECURITY
GUARD, BUT
HE WON'T
SUSPECT
ANYTHING.

IT'S
SUNDAY.
MOST
OF THE
TEACHERS
AREN'T
EVEN HERE.

B-BUT I'M
WEARING
THE WINTER
UNIFORM...

AND IF A
TEACHER
SEES ME--

B-
BUT...

DON'T
WORRY SO
MUCH!

YANK

LULU

BESIDES,
NANA...

I'M
HERE TO
PROTECT
YOU.



SPENDS
MOST
OF HER
DAYS.

THIS
IS...

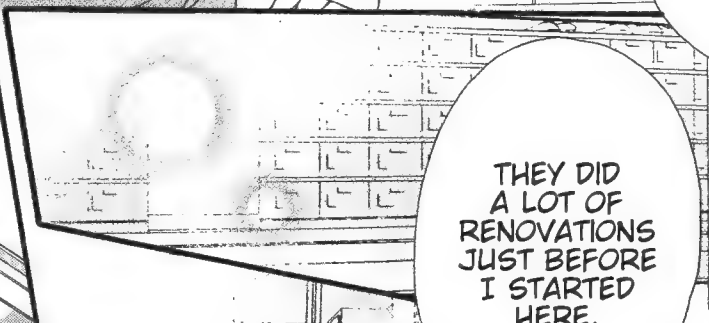
WHERE
HITOMI...

O-
OKAY.

SHOW ME
WHAT YOUR
SCHOOL
IS LIKE.

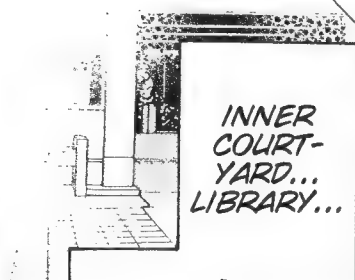


THIS
IS MY
CLASSROOM!



THEY DID
A LOT OF
RENOVATIONS
JUST BEFORE
I STARTED
HERE.

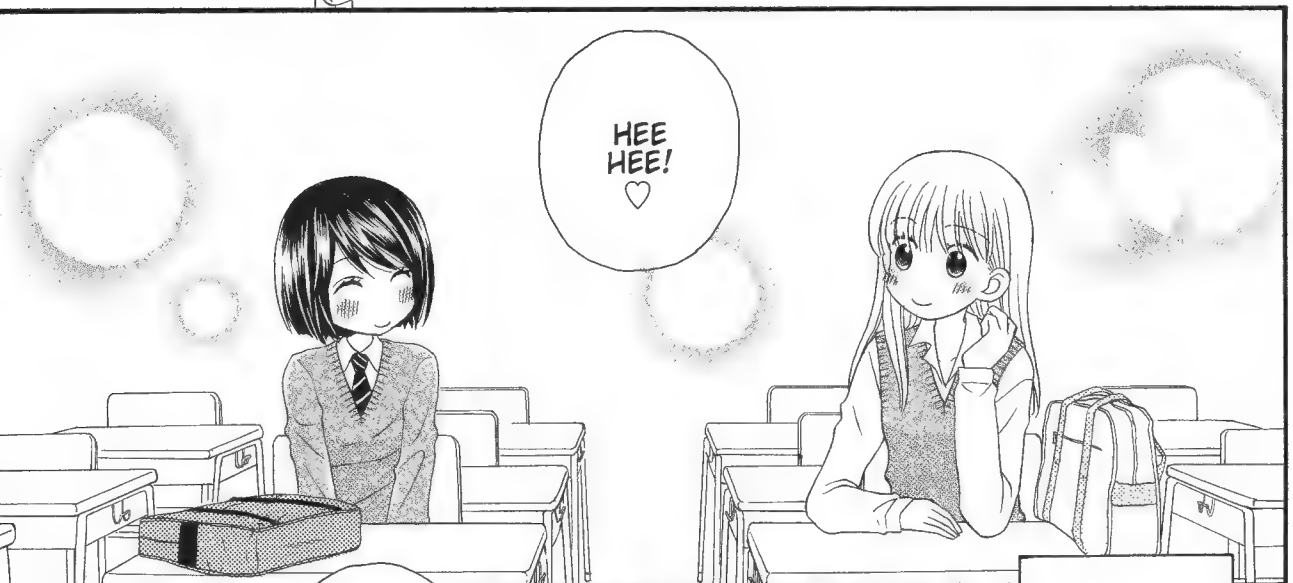
THE
SHOE
LOCKERS...



INNER
COURT-
YARD...
LIBRARY...



STAIR-
WELL...





HITOMI
IS RIGHT
THERE.

.....



I-I
WONDER...!!!

IF WE'D
EVER
SNEAK...
!!!!

KISSES
DURING
CLASS.
!!!!

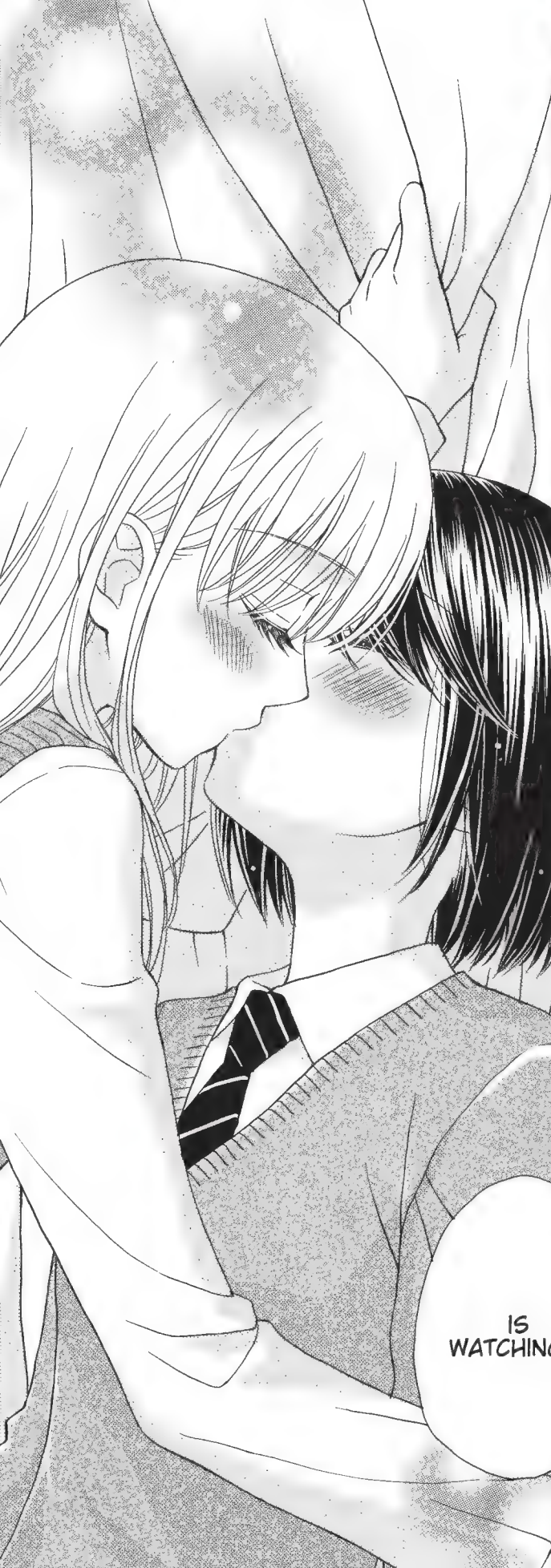


THINGS
ARE
DIFFERENT
NOW.

BUT IF
WE WENT
TO THE
SAME
SCHOOL...



MEOW



HUH?!



I KNOW!
I WAS
JUST
BEING
SILLY!

IT'S A
LITTLE
RISKY AT
SCHOOL.

I DON'T
KNOW...

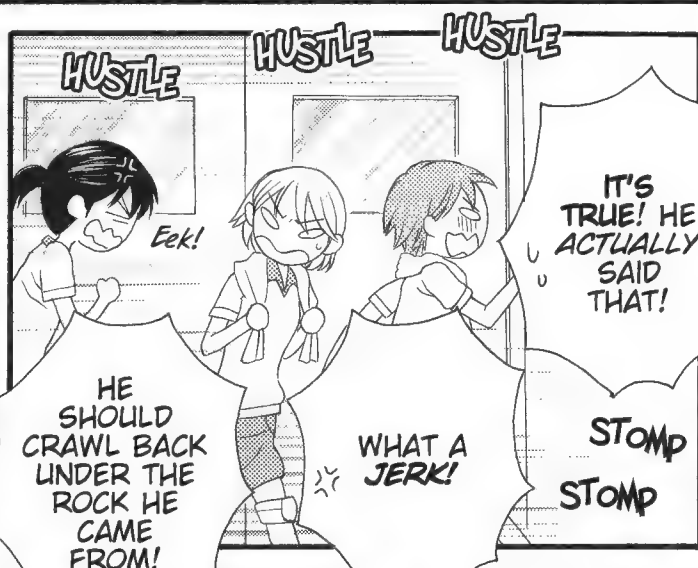


BUT...

IF NO
ONE...

IS
WATCHING...









HITOMI'S...

SMELL...

OH...

HOW DID
I END UP
WITH IT?

THIS
IS THE
SHIRT
HITOMI
WORE
TODAY...

HITOMI...



TALKED
ABOUT
HER
DREAM...

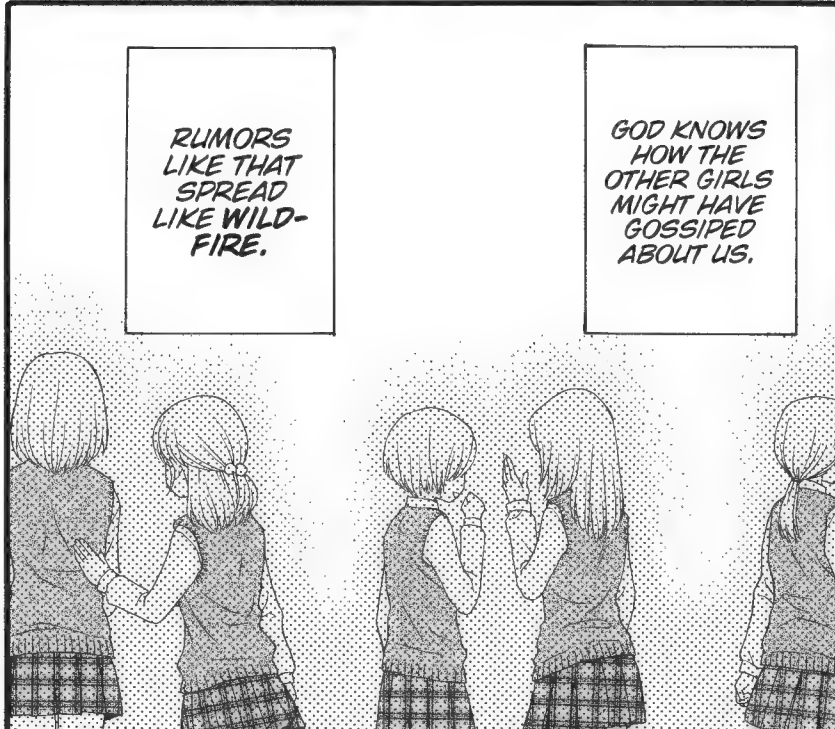
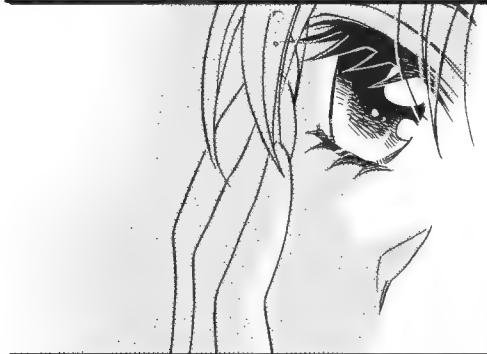
OF US LIVING
TOGETHER...

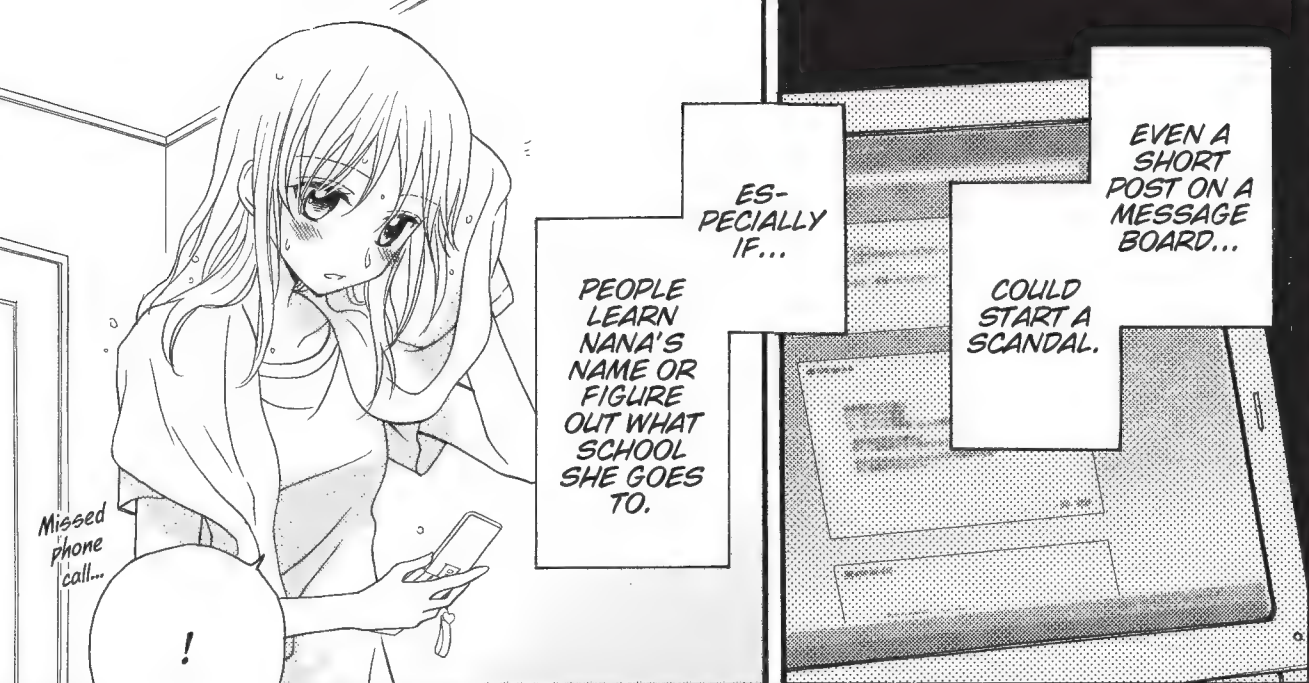
WHEN WE
GROW UP.

WHEN
THAT
HAP-
PENS...

WILL
WE...

UWAAH





Missed
phone
call...

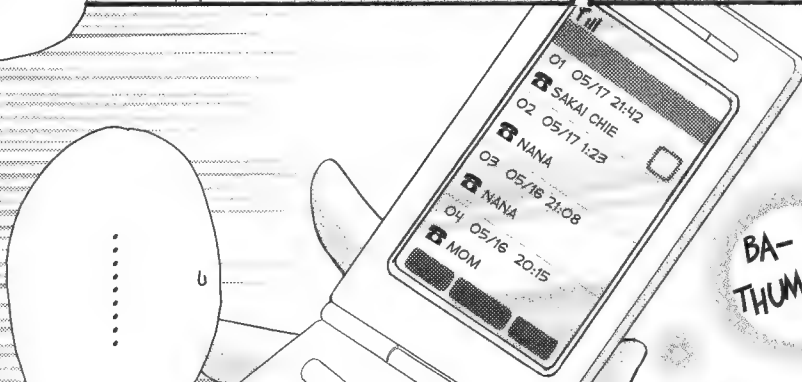
ES-
PECIALLY
IF...

PEOPLE
LEARN
NANA'S
NAME OR
FIGURE
OUT WHAT
SCHOOL
SHE GOES
TO.

COULD
START A
SCANDAL.

EVEN A
SHORT
POST ON A
MESSAGE
BOARD...

!



.....

BA-
THUMP

CHIE-
CHAN
CALLED?



BUT
DID YOU
CALL ME?

You were
taking a bath?
I'm just playing
video games.

HEY,
CHIE-
CHAN?

SORRY
TO CALL
YOU THIS
LATE...

I WAS
GONNA TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT IT
TOMORROW.

YEAH,
BUT IT'S
NOTHING
URGENT.



HM?
YEAH?

OH YEAH...
SPEAKING
OF CAMP...

SO...

THE
NATIONAL
TOURNA-
MENT IS
COMING
UP...

A
ha
ha!

WE'LL GET
TO SEE WHAT
THE NEW GIRLS
ARE MADE OF
AT TRAINING
CAMP!

WELL...
IT'S
JUST...

WHAT?



I NEED
YOUR
ADVICE ON
SOMETHING.

UHM...

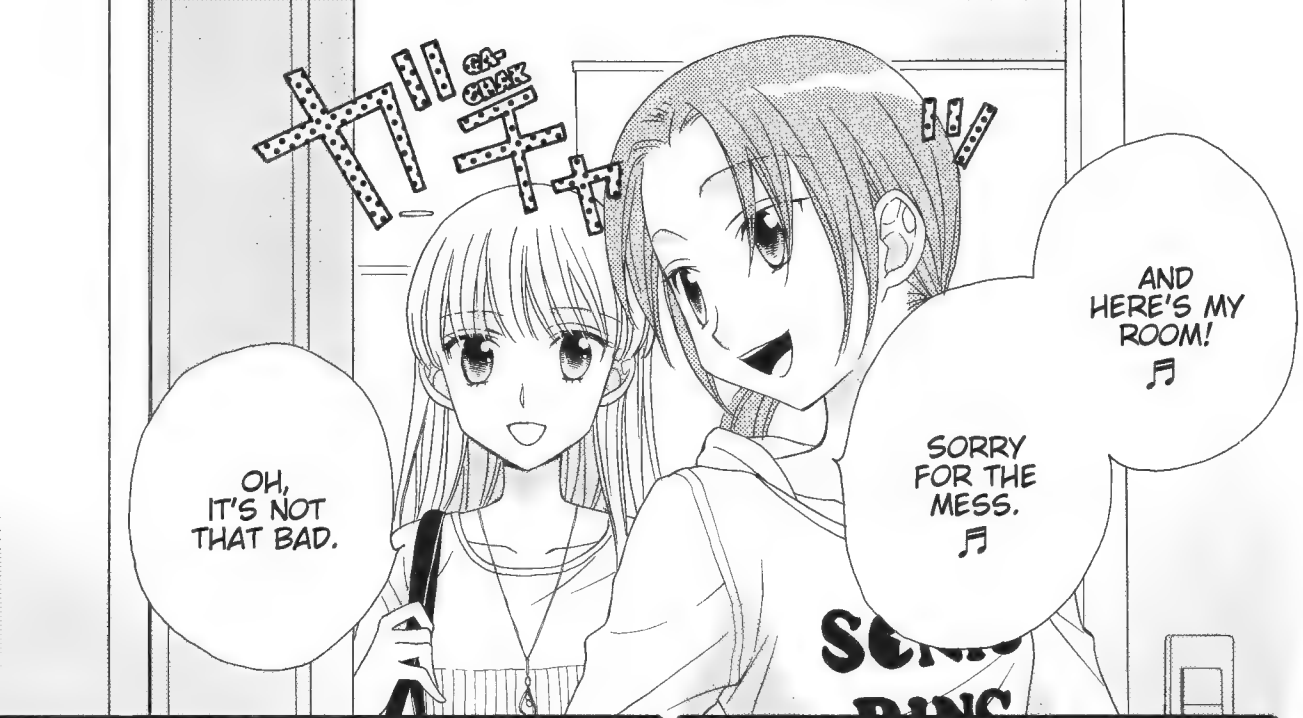
BEFORE
WE GO...

ABOUT
WHAT?



UHH, I'D
RATHER
TALK TO
YOU IN
PERSON,
SO...

CAN YOU
SLEEP
OVER
AT MY
HOUSE?



OH,
IT'S NOT
THAT BAD.

AND
HERE'S MY
ROOM!

SORRY
FOR THE
MESS.



NICE TRY,
BUT I HAVE
NO SHAME!
TO LOVE ME
IS TO
LOVE MY
MESSINESS!

Not
me!

TO
SHOW
SOMEONE
THEIR
ROOM
WHEN
IT'S THIS
MESSY.

MOST
PEOPLE
WOULD
FEEL
TOO
EMBAR-
RASSED...



Often buys the same
stuff by mistake.

AH!

DON'T
LOOK AT
THOSE!

WHY DO
YOU HAVE
TWO COPIES
OF THE
SAME
MANGA?



DISASTER
AREA

WHOA!

NEVER-
MIND...
I TAKE IT
BACK.

IT...
IT WAS
EVEN
WORSE
BEFORE.

CHAPTER 10 BEFORE THE STORM





AND WHEN I BIT INTO WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A REGULAR POTATO...

THE OTHER NIGHT SHE PUT DRIED PLUMS IN THE CURRY...

AND SHE BARELY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THEM!

NOT REALLY. SHE ONLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A FEW DISHES.

Ha ha ha!

DINNER WAS DELICIOUS. YOUR MOM'S A REALLY GOOD COOK!

IT TURNED OUT TO BE A YAM!!

SERI-
OUSLY?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MAKE A FRIEND...

THAT I COULD BE CLOSE TO, OTHER THAN NANA.

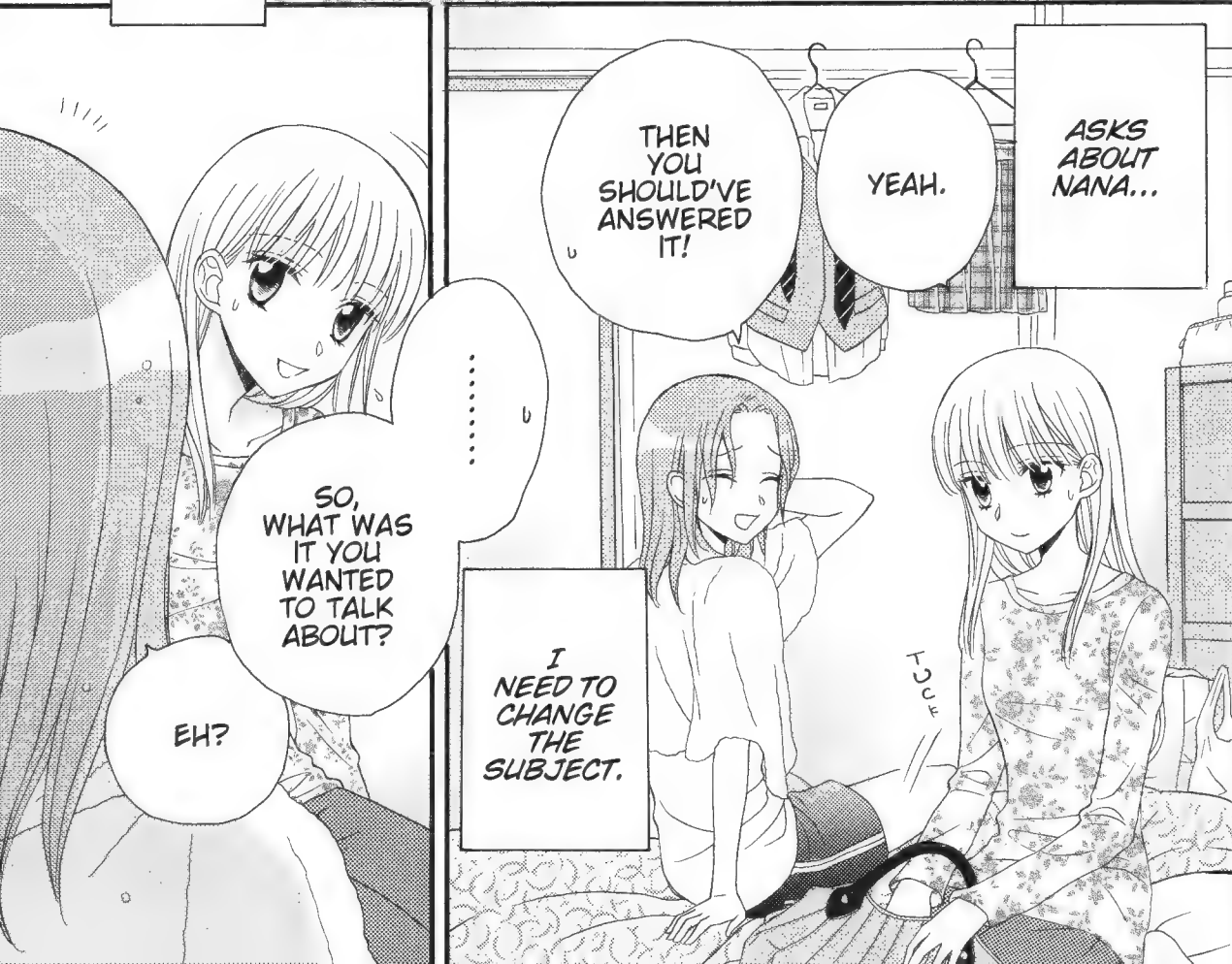
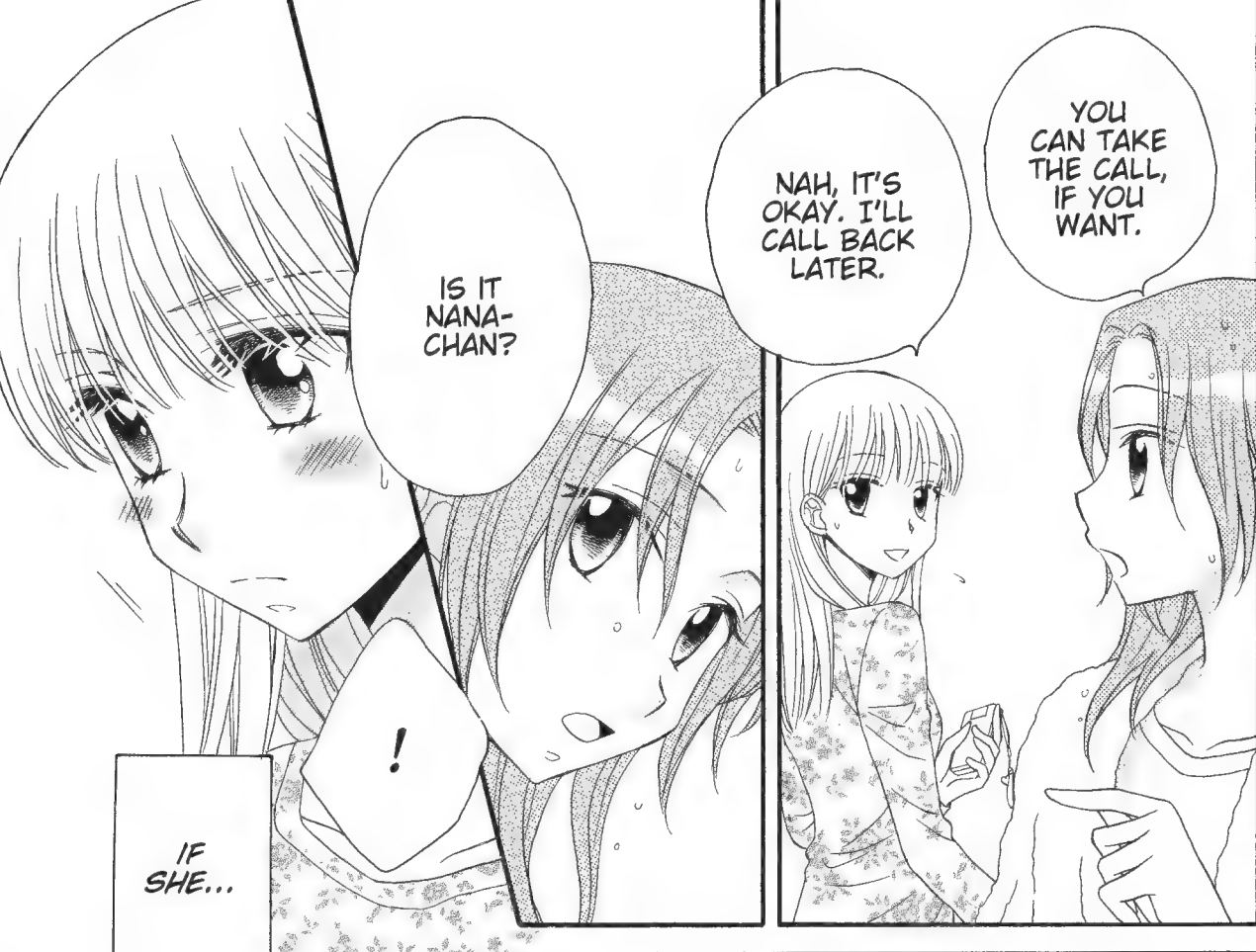
IT'S NANA.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

VRRR

AH...

VRRR





ON WHAT?

I WANTED TO GET YOUR THOUGHTS.

SIGH...



YOU WANTED SOME ADVICE, RIGHT?

OH...

YEAH... RIGHT.



IN JUNIOR HIGH...

A GIRL ASKED ME OUT.



A LOT OF THE YOUNGER GIRLS HAD CRUSHES ON ME.

SO...

See?

I WAS TALLER THAN THE OTHER GIRLS, AND I HAD SHORT HAIR AND LOOKED KINDA BOYISH.

Me in junior high.

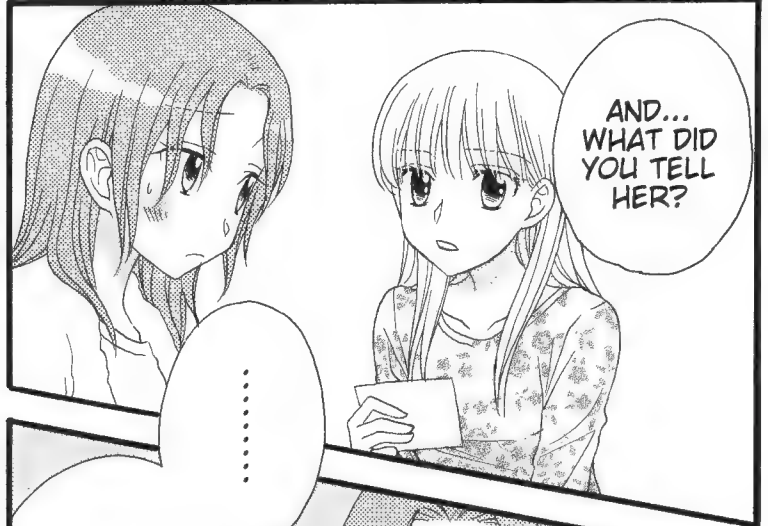


RUSTLE
RUSTLE



WHAAT ?!

R-REALLY?





IT'S
NOT
REAL
LOVE.

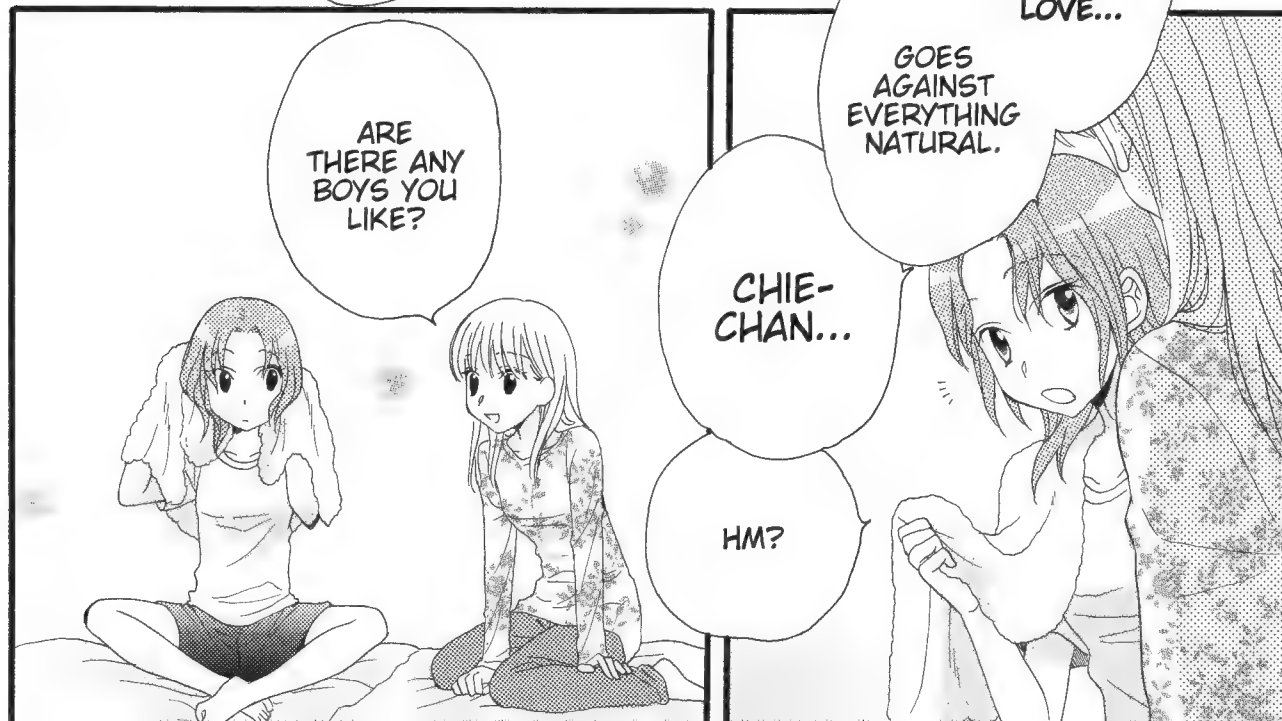
I
MEAN,
THINK
ABOUT
IT...



ARE ONLY
USING THEM
AS PLACE-
HOLDERS
UNTIL THEY
FIND A GUY
THEY LIKE.

EVEN
THE GIRLS
SWOONING
OVER KANOU
AND KAWA-
SHIMA...

THE
GIRLS SAY
THEY'RE
AFRAID
OR HATE
BOYS, BUT
REALLY...



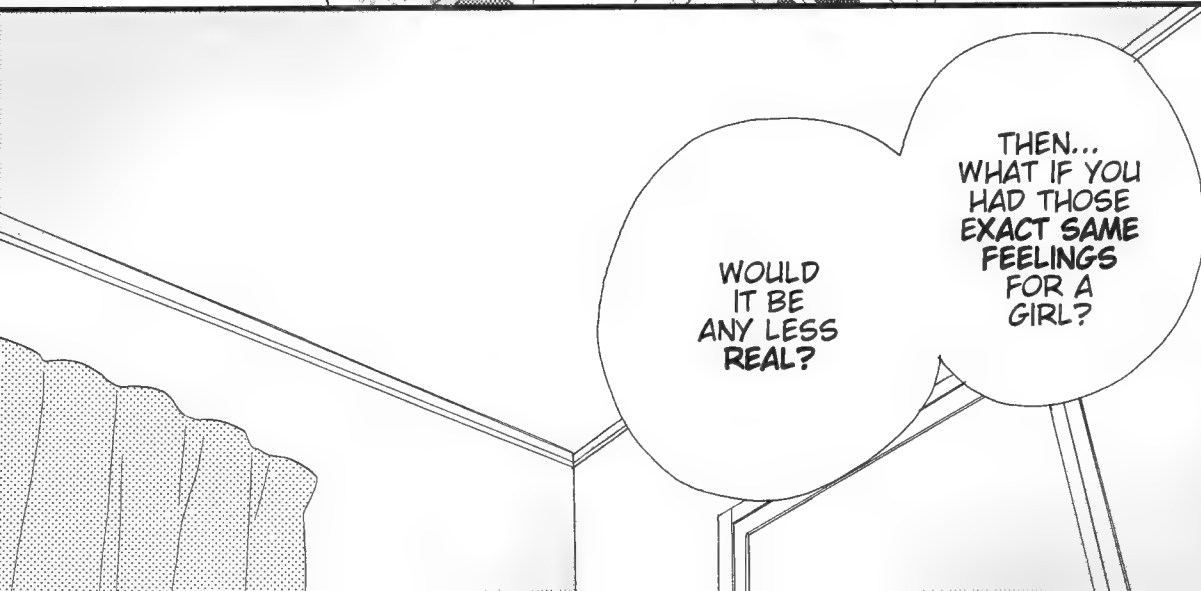
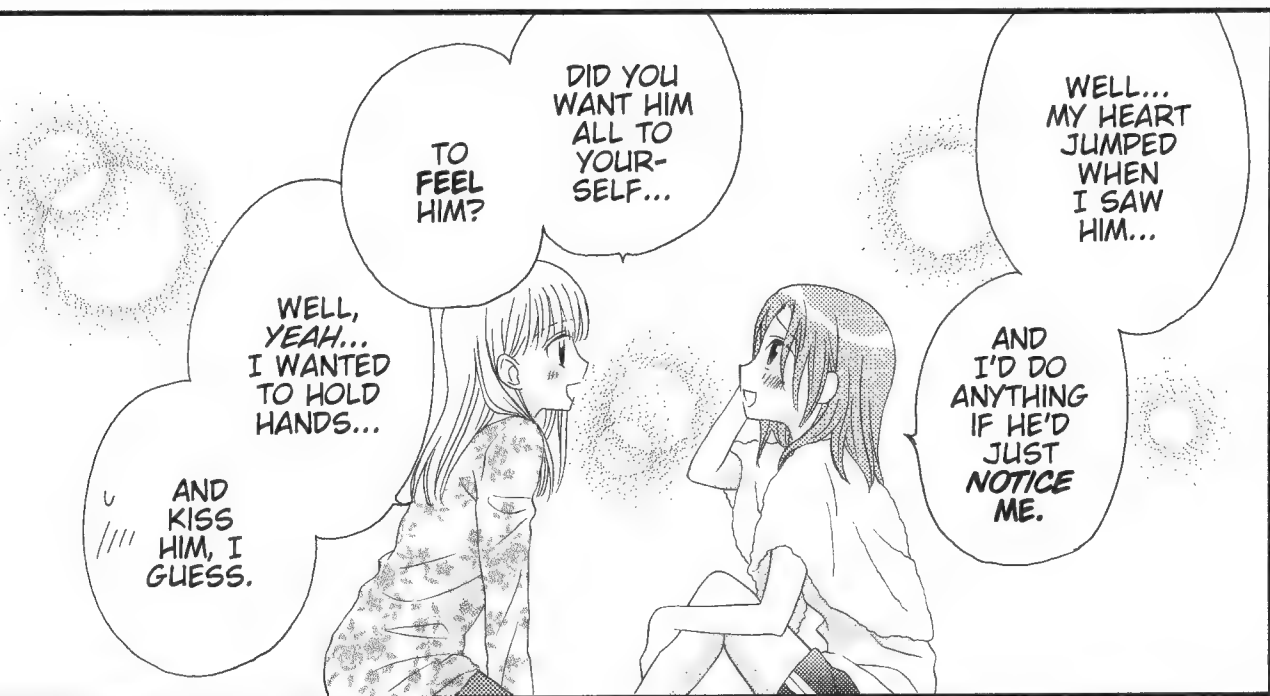
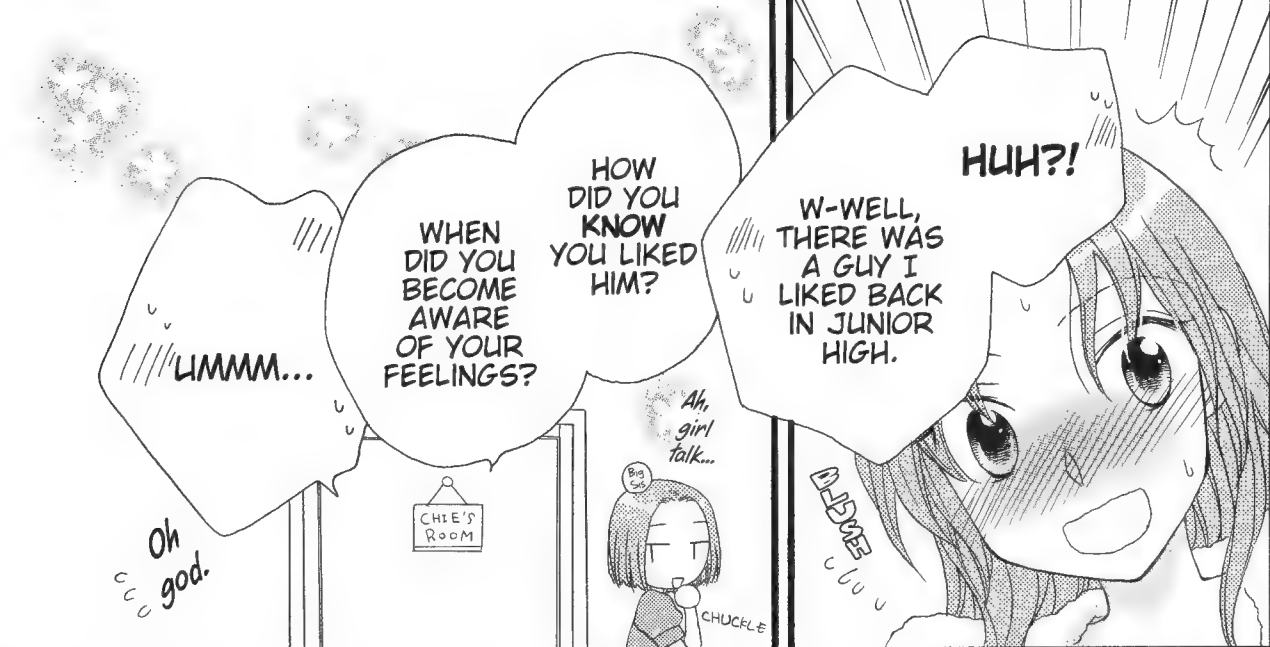
ARE
THERE ANY
BOYS YOU
LIKE?

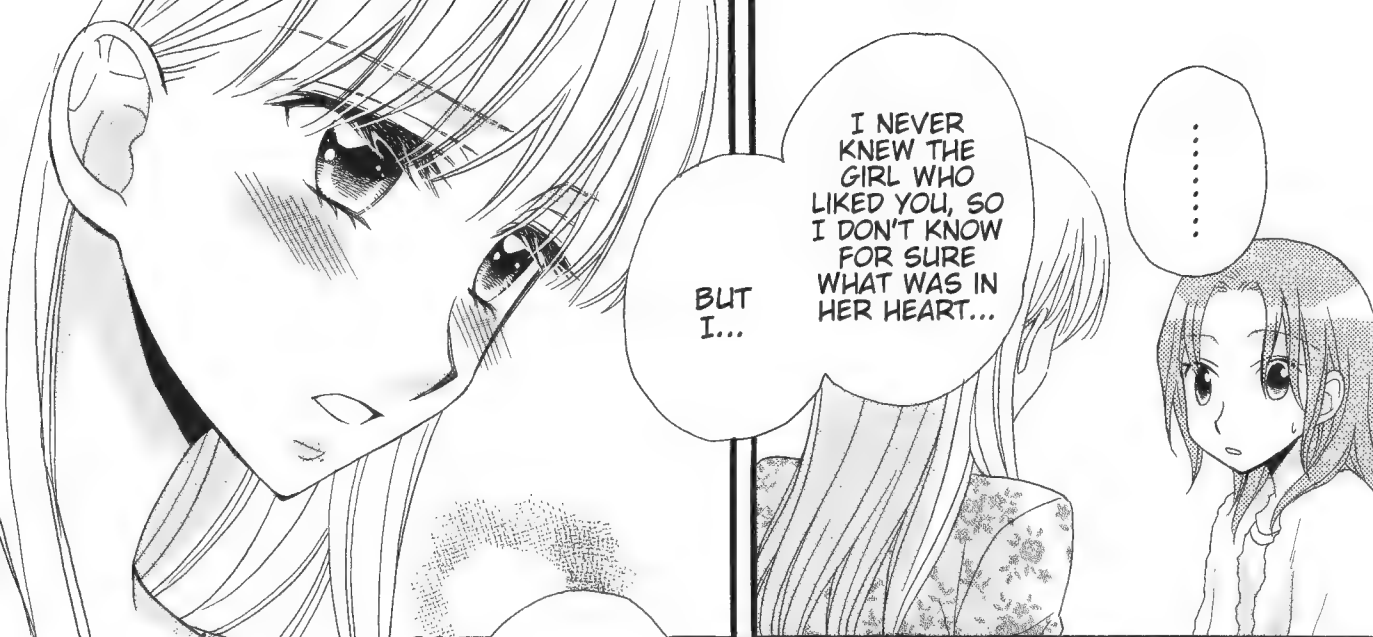
CHIE-
CHAN...

HM?

GOES
AGAINST
EVERYTHING
NATURAL.

SERIOUSLY,
SAME-SEX
LOVE...





I NEVER
KNEW THE
GIRL WHO
LIKED YOU, SO
I DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE
WHAT WAS IN
HER HEART...

BUT
I...

.....



I
THINK IT
WAS...

REAL
LOVE.

MY
HEART
SKIPS
WHEN
I'M WITH
HER...

AND I'M
HAPPIER
JUST BEING
NEXT HER.

I WANT
HER ALL TO
MYSELF.

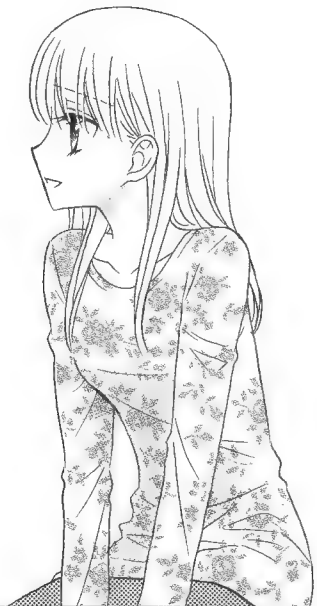
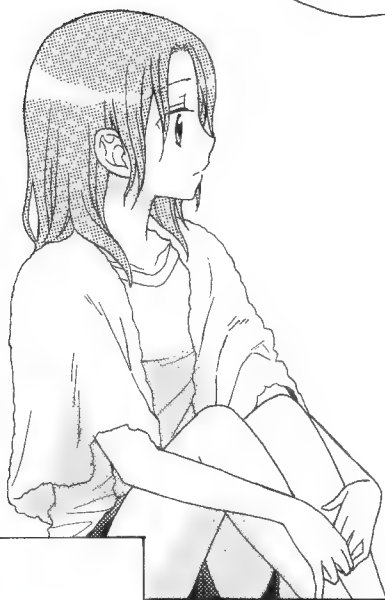
I WANT TO
HOLD HER IN
MY ARMS AND
FEEL HER.

AND I
NEVER
WANT TO
LET HER
GO.

ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...

I'M
GOING
OUT
WITH
NANA-
CHAN.

YEAH.



I
FINALLY
...

CAME
OUT.



OH...

S-
SERIOUSLY?

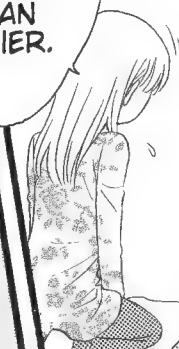
.....

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
GROSSED
OUT, HUH?

OH,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT...

I KINDA
SUSPECTED
ANYWAY.

I'M
SORRY
FOR NOT
COMING
CLEAN
EARLIER.



BE-
CAUSE...



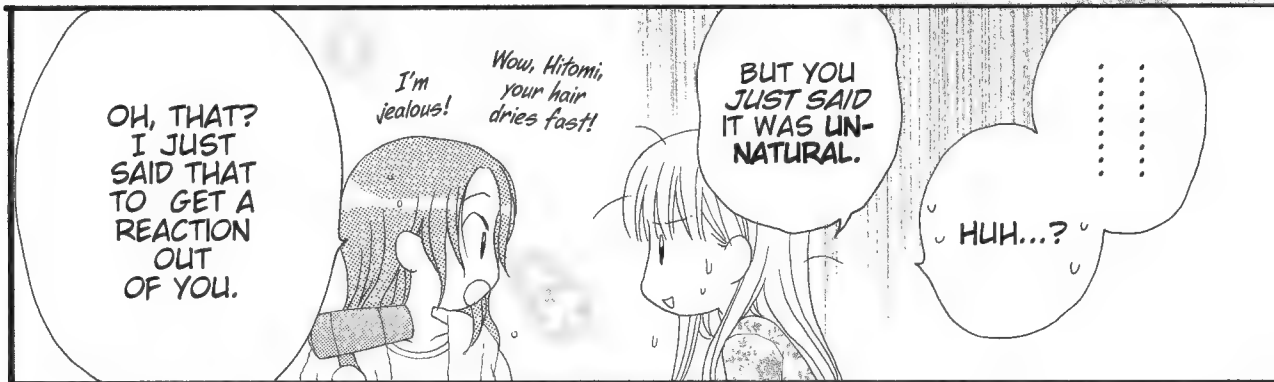
HUH?

WHY WOULD
I BE
GROSSED
OUT? I
TOLD YOU
I WAS FINE
EITHER WAY.

I DIDN'T
WANT...

MY
FRIEND
TO
THINK...

THAT MY
FEELINGS
WEREN'T
REAL.



OH, THAT?
I JUST
SAID THAT
TO GET A
REACTION
OUT
OF YOU.

*I'm
jealous!*

*Wow, Hitomi,
your hair
dries fast!*

BUT YOU
JUST SAID
IT WAS UN-
NATURAL.

...
...
...
HUH...?



IT WAS
TOUGH,
SINCE YOU
CAN BE
PRETTY
ALOOF.

YOU'D
FINALLY
TALK TO ME
ABOUT IT.

BUT I
KNEW
IF I
BROUGHT
IT UP
FIRST...

YOU DON'T
REALLY LET
PEOPLE IN
EASILY.

*She
tricked
me?*

WHAT
THE--?



It gets worse.

SHE DID ADMIT HER FEELINGS TO ME, BUT...

OH, MY STORY ABOUT THE GIRL WAS TRUE.

WOOO

But she threw me for a loop.

I mean, I really thought hard about my answer...

After that, she got a boyfriend.

Shock

...

!!

I TOOK IT KIND OF HARD.

I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO ACCEPT HER FEELINGS... BUT SHE WASN'T THAT SERIOUS AFTER ALL.

I NEVER KNEW...

HUH?

I-I DO?

HITOMI-CHAN...

YOU AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH OTHER GIRLS, DON'T YOU?

AND YOU'RE ALWAYS TURNING DOWN INVITATIONS TO HANG OUT.

AND YOU HANG OUT WITH HER INSTEAD US AFTER THE GAMES...

BUT WHEN NANA-CHAN SHOWS UP, YOU'RE ALL OVER HER.

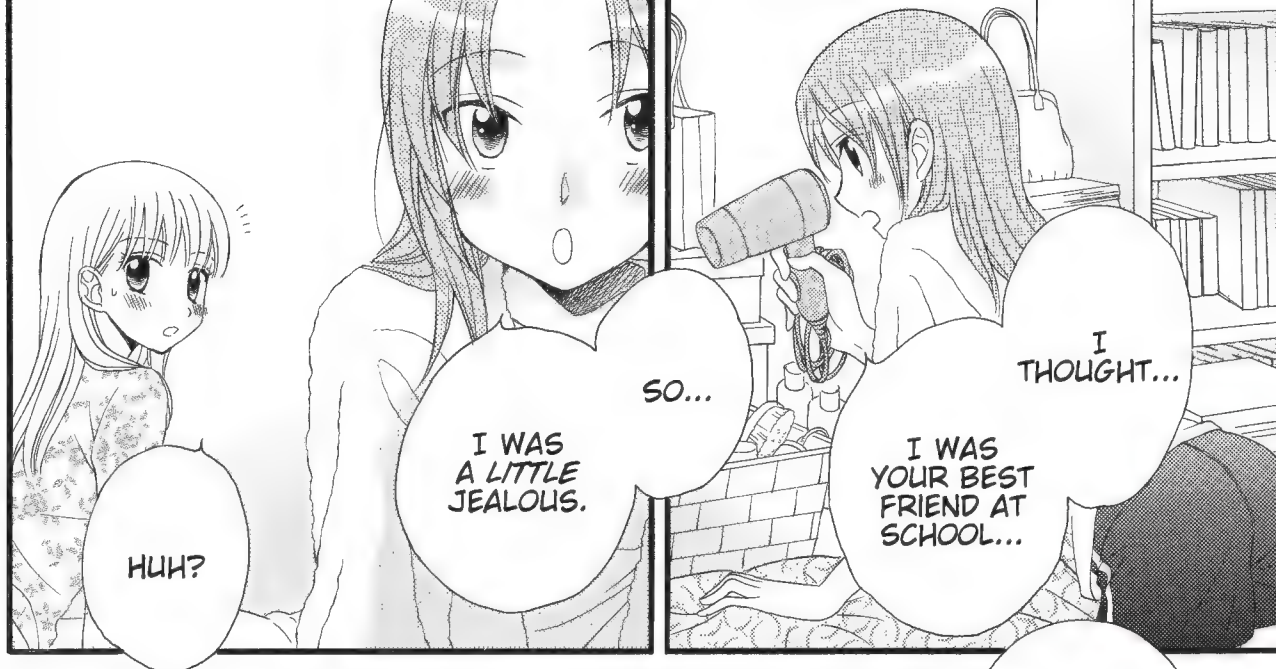
YOU MIGHT GIVE SOMEONE A HIGH-FIVE, BUT THAT'S IT.

EVEN AFTER WE WIN A GAME, YOU NEVER HUG ANY OF US.

You do!

I bet it was Kagami.

No wonder someone complained on the forum!



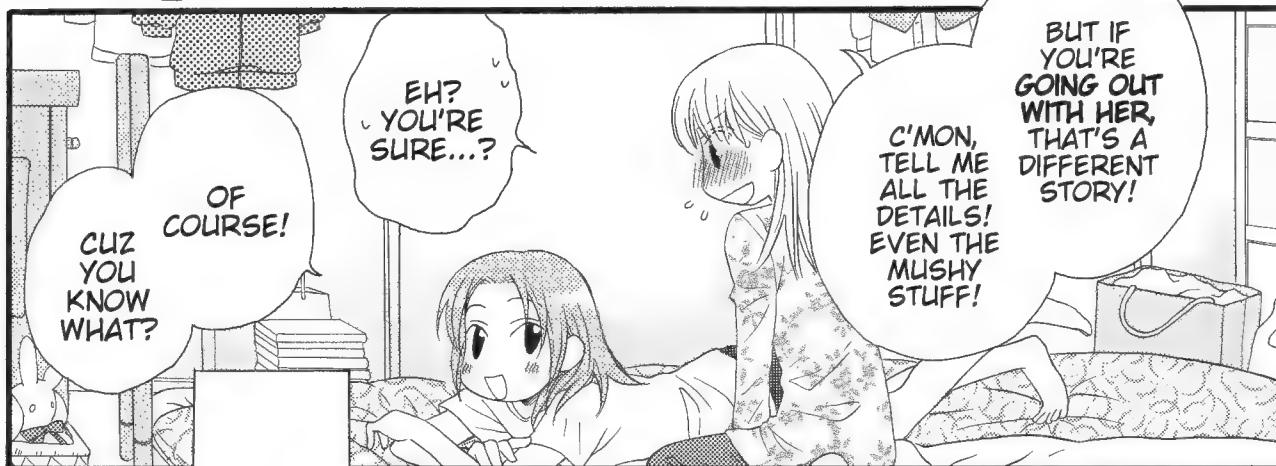
HUH?

I WAS
A LITTLE
JEALOUS.

SO...

I
THOUGHT...

I WAS
YOUR BEST
FRIEND AT
SCHOOL...



CUZ
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

OF
COURSE!

EH?
YOU'RE
SURE...?

C'MON,
TELL ME
ALL THE
DETAILS!
EVEN THE
MUSHY
STUFF!

BUT IF
YOU'RE
GOING OUT
WITH HER,
THAT'S A
DIFFERENT
STORY!

I...

I
NEVER
IMAG-
INED...

YEAH...

I
GUESS
SO.

RIGHT?

IF SHE'S
YOUR LOVER,
THAT MEANS
I'M YOUR
BEST
FRIEND!



NOW
THAT I
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...

YOU CAN
TALK TO ME
ABOUT IT,
OKAY?

AND IF I
GET A BOY-
FRIEND, YOU'LL
BE THE FIRST
TO KNOW!

♪

FIND A
FRIEND
WHO'D
UNDER-
STAND.

I'D BE
ABLE
TO...

OH, BUT
WE
SHOULDN'T
TELL
KAGAMI!

No!

OF
COURSE
NOT!

WE'VE
GOTTA BE
CAREFUL
AT CAMP.

VROOOM

WHAT?

Y-YOU
TOLD
YOUR
FRIEND...

ABOUT
US?



BUT I
FEEL
BETTER
NOW THAT
I DID.

I
DIDN'T
PLAN ON
TELLING
HER...

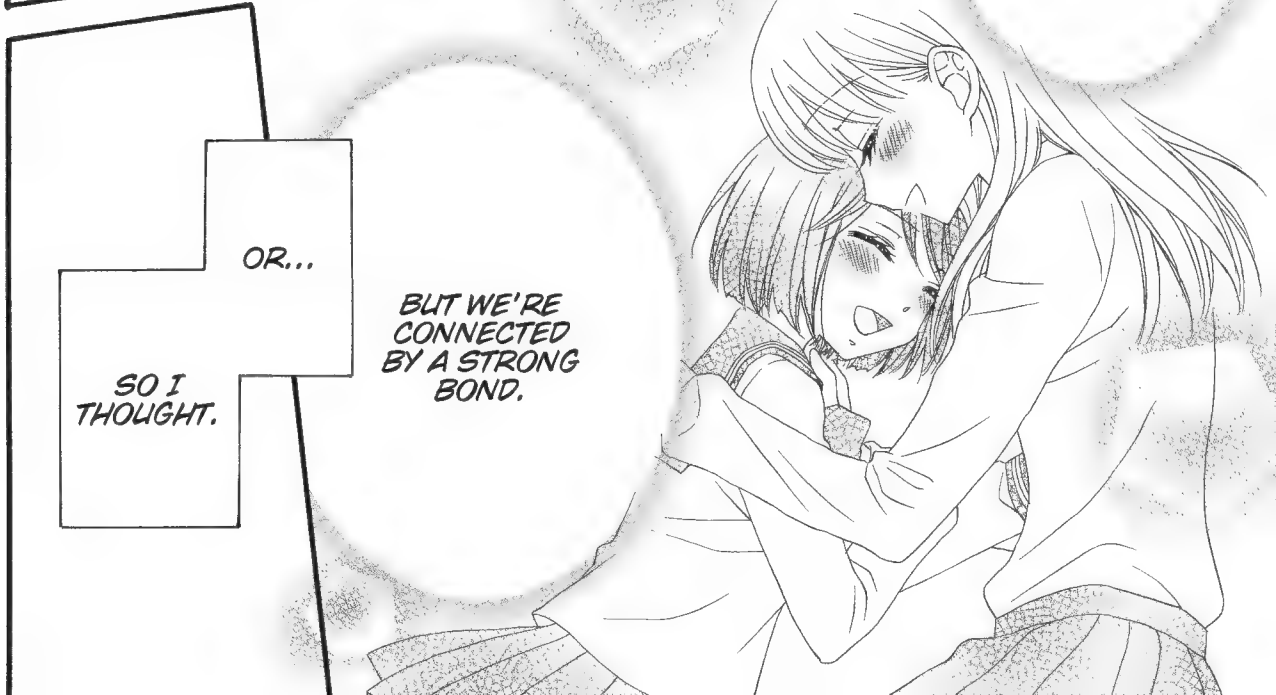
YEAH.

DON'T
WORRY!
CHIE-CHAN
WON'T TELL
ANYONE.



IT'S NICE
TO HAVE
A FRIEND
CHEERING
YOU ON.

WE CAN'T
DISCUSS
IT WITH
ANYONE...

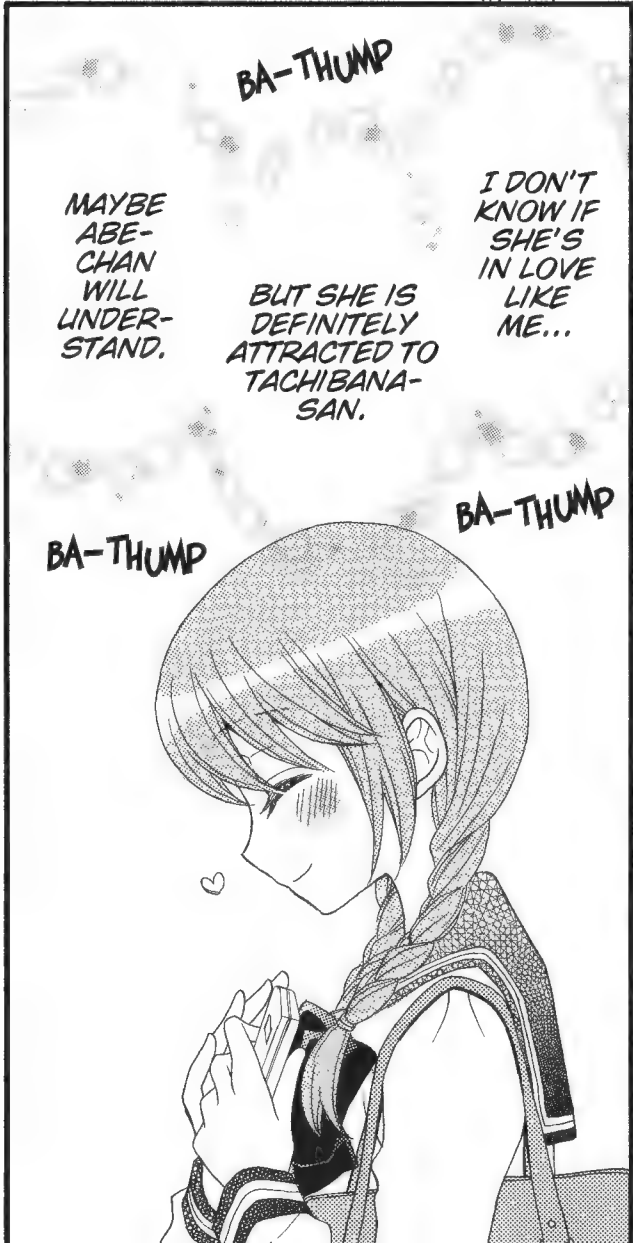
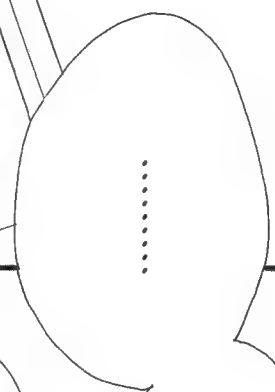
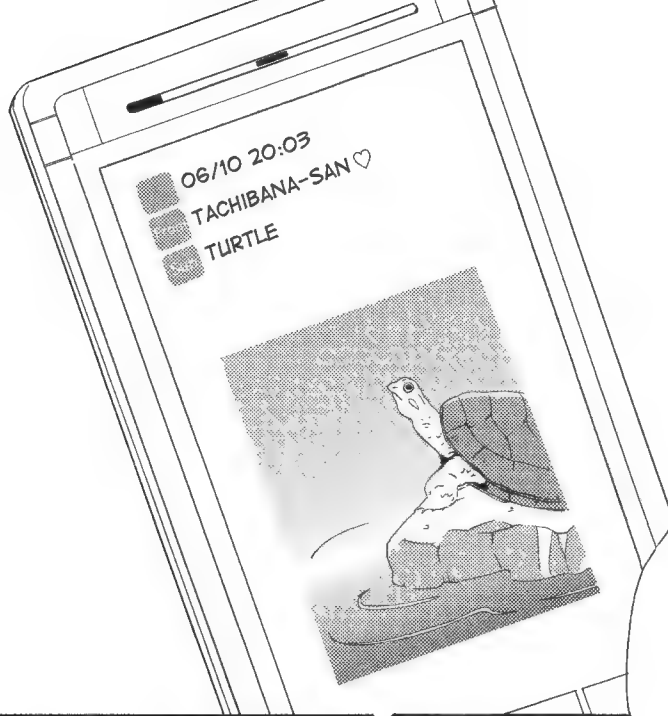


OR...

SO I
THOUGHT.

BUT WE'RE
CONNECTED
BY A STRONG
BOND.

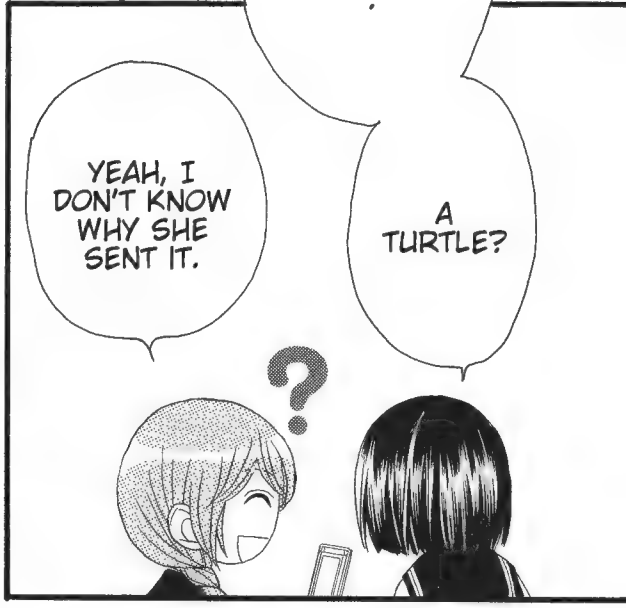




MAYBE
ABE-
CHAN
WILL
UNDER-
STAND.

BUT SHE IS
DEFINITELY
ATTRACTED TO
TACHIBANA-
SAN.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
SHE'S
IN LOVE
LIKE
ME...



YEAH, I
DON'T KNOW
WHY SHE
SENT IT.

A
TURTLE?



Gotta
save
her
text!
♡

click



HM? WHAT IS IT?

BA-THUMP

LMM...

ABE-CHAN... LH...

BA-THUMP

ERR...

I...

LMM...



BUT...

WHAT IF...

?

NANA-CHIN?

WHAT IF...

RUSTLE

SHE'S WEIRDED OUT?

EVERYONE FINDS OUT ABOUT ME?



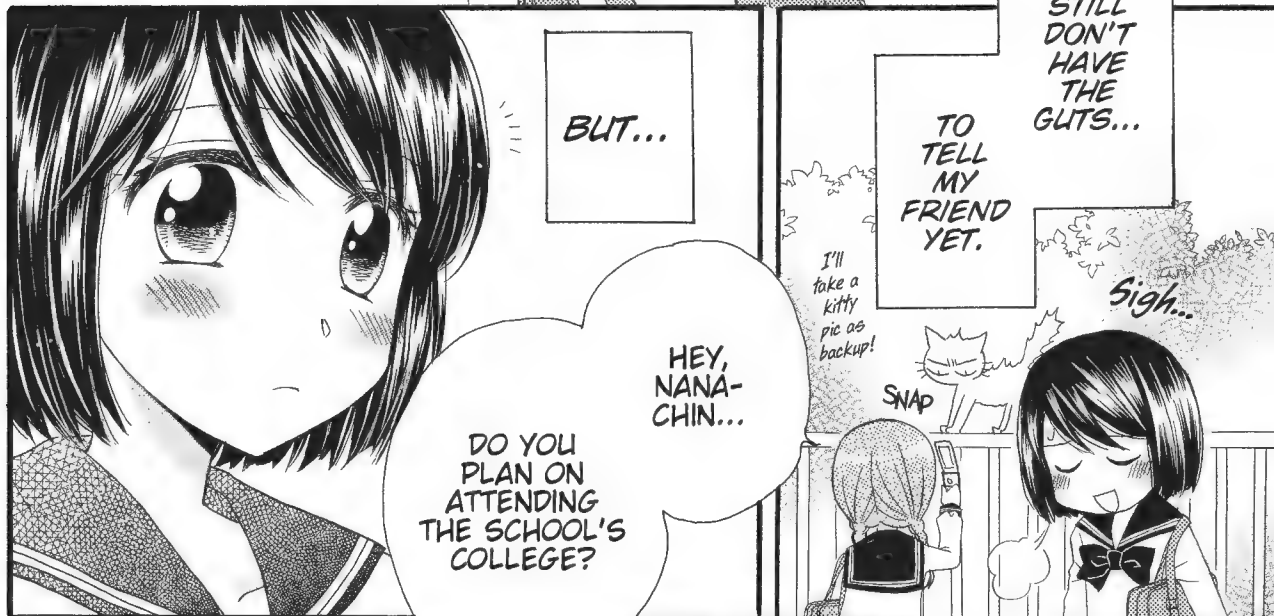
R-
REALLY?

YOU
THINK I
SHOULD
REPLY WITH
A TURTLE
PIC?

Ah!

I KNOW
WHERE
TO FIND
LOTS OF
TURTLES.

I...



BUT...

I
STILL
DON'T
HAVE
THE
GUTS...

TO
TELL
MY
FRIEND
YET.

I'll
take a
kitty
pic as
backup!

SNAP

Sigh...

HEY,
NANA-
CHIN...

DO YOU
PLAN ON
ATTENDING
THE SCHOOL'S
COLLEGE?



I'M
GOING TO
MAJOR IN
LITERATURE,
JUST LIKE
TACHIBANA-
SAN!

Ehehe!

BIG
SURPRISE.

FOR
NOW, I'M
HAPPY
WITH
THE WAY
THINGS
ARE.

YEAH, I
GUESS
SO.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT TO
MAJOR IN?
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
TALK TO THE
GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR
SOON.

I THINK
I STILL
HAVE
SOME TIME
BEFORE...

I TELL MY
FRIENDS
OR WORRY
ABOUT
HOW
THEY'LL
REACT.

Sakurakai Girls' High School



HITOMI
SAID
SHE WAS
GOING TO
TAKE OUR
UNIVERSITY
ENTRANCE
EXAM.

OH
YEAH...

I'LL BE IN
A DIFFERENT
GRADE, BUT
AT LEAST WE'LL
BE IN THE SAME
DEPARTMENT!



WE'LL
BE IN
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AGAIN.

JUST LIKE
WE BOTH
DREAMED.

IF SHE
PASSES,
WE CAN BE
SCHOOL-
MATES
AGAIN...

Awww

ALL
RIGHT!
LET'S STUDY
HARD FOR
FINALS, ABE-
CHAN!

REALLY?
BUT IT'S
OVER A
MONTH
AWAY...

GOOD
LUCK!

Oh!

TO GET IN,
I NEED
TO KEEP
MY GRADES
UP AND GET
SELECTED
BEFORE
GRADUATION!!







COMING
BACK.

I'M
NOT...

EH?

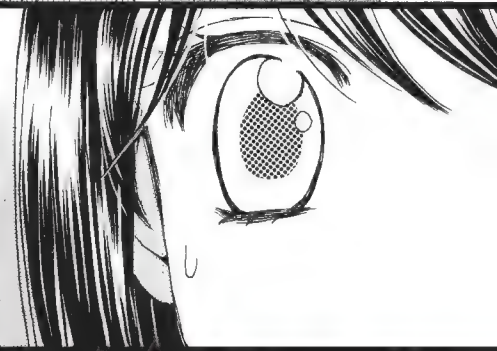
WHAT
DOES
SHE
MEAN?



I
THOUGHT
TRAINING
CAMP
WASN'T
UNTIL THE
SUMMER.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?
WHEN
ARE YOU
COMING
BACK?

LEAVING
HOME?



I'M...

RUNNING
AWAY.

WHAT?!



くちびるためいきさくらいろ

K u c h i b i r u T a m e i k i S a k u r a i r o

MORNING,
NANA!

GOOD
MORNING!

UP TO A
CERTAIN
POINT...

I'M
OFF TO
SCHOOL!

IT'S A
TYPICAL
MORNING.

I'M ALL
PACKED AND
READY TO GO.
THERE'S NO
TURNING
BACK!

I DON'T
WANT TO
DRAG YOU
INTO MY
MESS.

HEY...

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
DO THIS,
YOU
KNOW?

TODAY...

WE
EACH
BROUGHT
ONE
EXTRA
BAG.

WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!

HOW CAN
YOU EVEN
ASK ME
THAT?

JEEZ!

OKAY...

Close  Open 

GR-CHK

ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
WANT TO
STASH
IN THE
LOCKER?

NOPE.

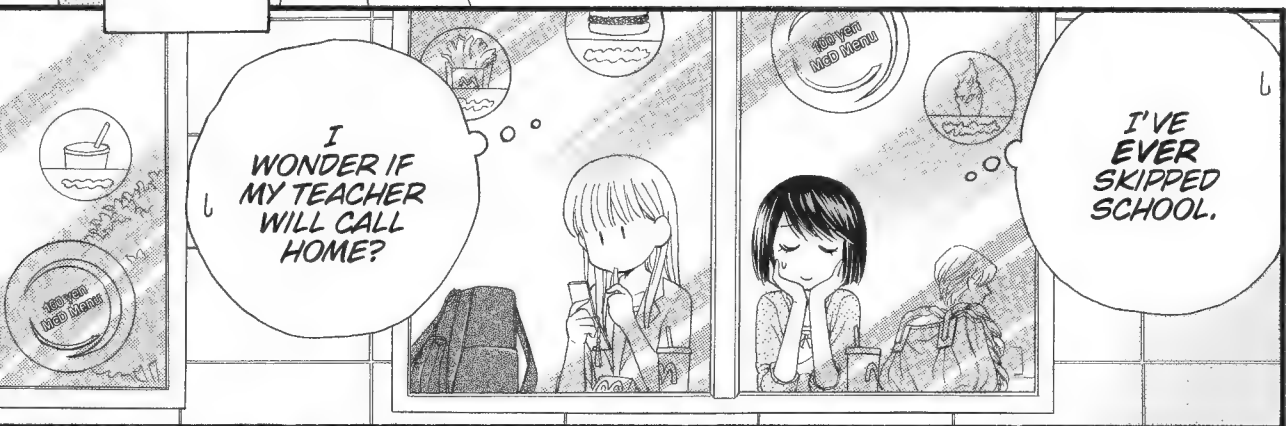
CHAPTER 11 TEENAGE RUNAWAYS

FROM
HERE
ON...

EVERY-
THING'S
DIFFERENT.

LET'S
GO!









HITOMI,
THIS ISN'T
RUNNING
FROM
HOME...
IT'S A
VACATION.

THE LARGE
BATH IS
OPEN UNTIL
MIDNIGHT, BUT
THE OUTDOOR
BATH IS OPEN
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS.

YEAH, IT'S
SUMMER
BREAK
AT OUR
COLLEGE.

SO YOU AND
YOUR FRIEND
DECIDED TO
TAKE A TRIP
TOGETHER?

LIE

Ha ha!

SHE
BELIEVED ME
WHEN I SAID WE
WERE COLLEGE
STUDENTS! WELL,
WE'LL BE IN
COLLEGE NEXT
YEAR, SO CLOSE
ENOUGH!

I'VE GOT IT
COVERED.

DON'T
WORRY!
I SAVED
SOME
MONEY
FROM MY
PART-TIME
JOB.

WHAT?

NO, I
COULDN'T
POSS-
IBLY--!

IT MIGHT
BE CHEAP,
BUT IT'S STILL
MORE THAN I
CAN AFFORD.

I KNOW,
BUT IT'S
ONLY 6000
YEN PER NIGHT
WITH DINNER
INCLUDED!
ISN'T THAT A
GOOD DEAL?

HITOMI...

RUNAWAYS
DON'T SKIP
SCHOOL
JUST TO GO
TO A HOT
SPRINGS!

Couldn't
help it...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I WAS SAVING THIS MONEY FOR THE DAY WE WOULD LIVE TOGETHER. IT JUST CAME A LITTLE SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

EH?

AND MAKE PLANS FOR THE LONG-TERM.

THEN WE SHOULD SAVE OUR MONEY NOW...

I don't mind camping.

BUT I ONLY HAVE ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT...

WE MIGHT HAVE TO CAMP OUT TOMORROW. SORRY...

BUT... I REALLY DON'T MIND SPENDING IT NOW.

THAT'S WHY I LEFT HOME...

BECAUSE...

SQUEEZE

NO WAY!

I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO, NANA!

THERE'S A CHANCE WE WON'T BE TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE.

OH RIGHT...

OUR
TRIP WAS
NOTHING
LIKE I
EXPECTED...

HONEY-
MOON?!

HON...

SHUGGLE
SHUGGLE

LIKE
WE'RE
ON OUR
HONEY-
MOON!

I
WANTED
TO SPEND A
DAY WITH
YOU...

WE'RE
RUN-
AWAYS
...

RIGHT
?

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO DO FIRST:
MONKEY
MOUNTAIN
PARK OR
THE CABLE
CAR?

HEY,
WANNA
GO
SIGHT-
SEEING?

IT
HARDLY
FEELS...

LIKE
WE'VE
RUN
AWAY
FROM
HOME.

VACATION
MODE

Ooh
Ooh!

ASHITZU

EH?
YOU'RE
HITOMI-
CHAN'S
MOTHER?

G-GOOD
EVENING!

UHM...

SORRY
TO CALL
YOU SO
LATE AT
NIGHT.

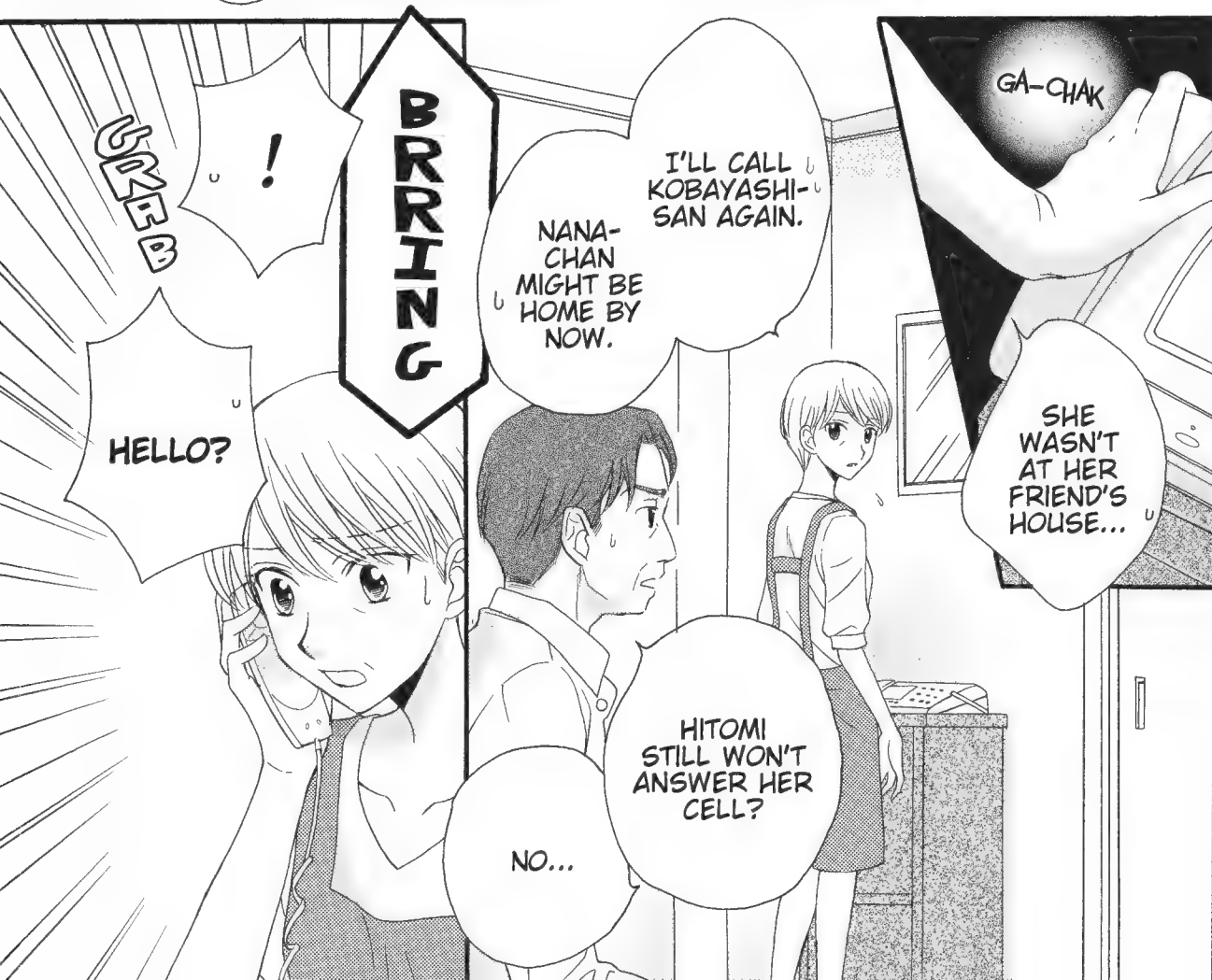
THANK YOU
FOR TAKING
CARE OF MY
DAUGHTER
HITOMI
THE
OTHER DAY.

SAKAI-
SAN?
UHM...

CHIE,
CAN YOU
GET THE
PHONE?

HELLO,
SAKAI
RESI-
DENCE.

GOT
IT!



WHAT
WERE THOSE
TWO
THINKING?

SHE
LEFT
A NOTE
ON THE
KITCHEN
TABLE...

CAN
YOU
BELIEVE
IT?

She never came
home from school.

OH, KO-
BAYASHI-
SAN...

HUH?
NANA-
CHAN DID
U WHAT?!

I'm going away with Hitomi for a while.
I'm sorry for skipping school.
I will call you later. Please don't worry.
Please text me if there is an emergency.

Nana

I
can't
believe
her!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HITOMI
RAN
AWAY...

Sigh.

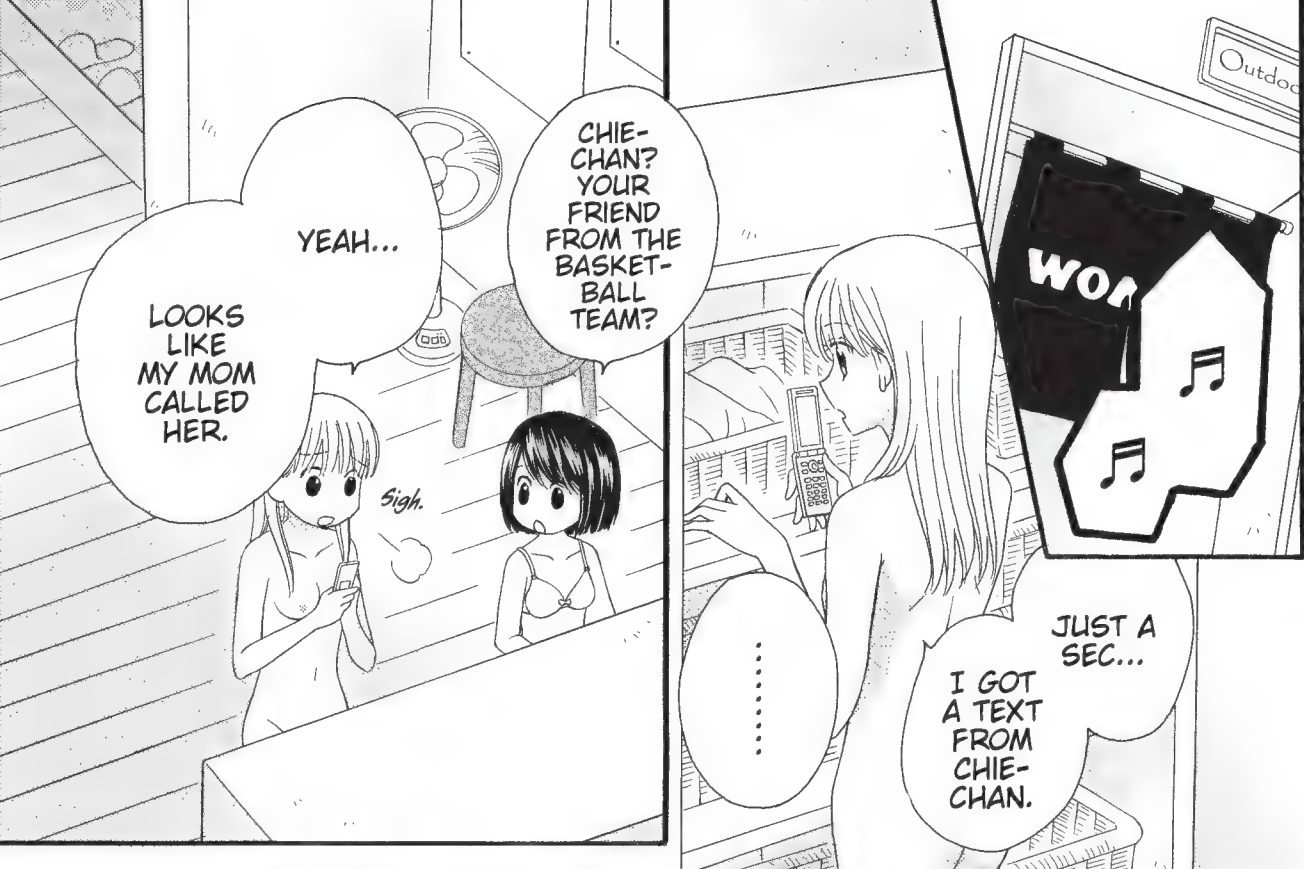
HITOMI'S
COMING
WITH US
OVERSEAS.

SHE CAN
GO TO
COLLEGE
THERE.

SHE DOES
NEED TO
STUDY FOR
HER COLLEGE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

MAYBE
HITOMI
COULD STAY
IN JAPAN
WHILE
WE GO
ABROAD.

IT MIGHT
BE A LONG-
TERM STAY. WE
CAN'T LEAVE
HER HERE
ALONE THAT
LONG!





EEEEK!!

B-BUT
IT'S SO
EMBAR-
RASSING!

DON'T
WORRY!
IT'S ONLY
US HERE.

IT'S BAD
MANNERS
TO WEAR A
TOWEL INTO
THE BATH!

Wait!
Wait!

Come
on!

Take
it off!

YANK

WHY
ARE YOU
SO SHY
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

BUT...



HEY,
WHY DO
YOU STILL
HAVE A
TOWEL
ON?

UHH...



BLUSH

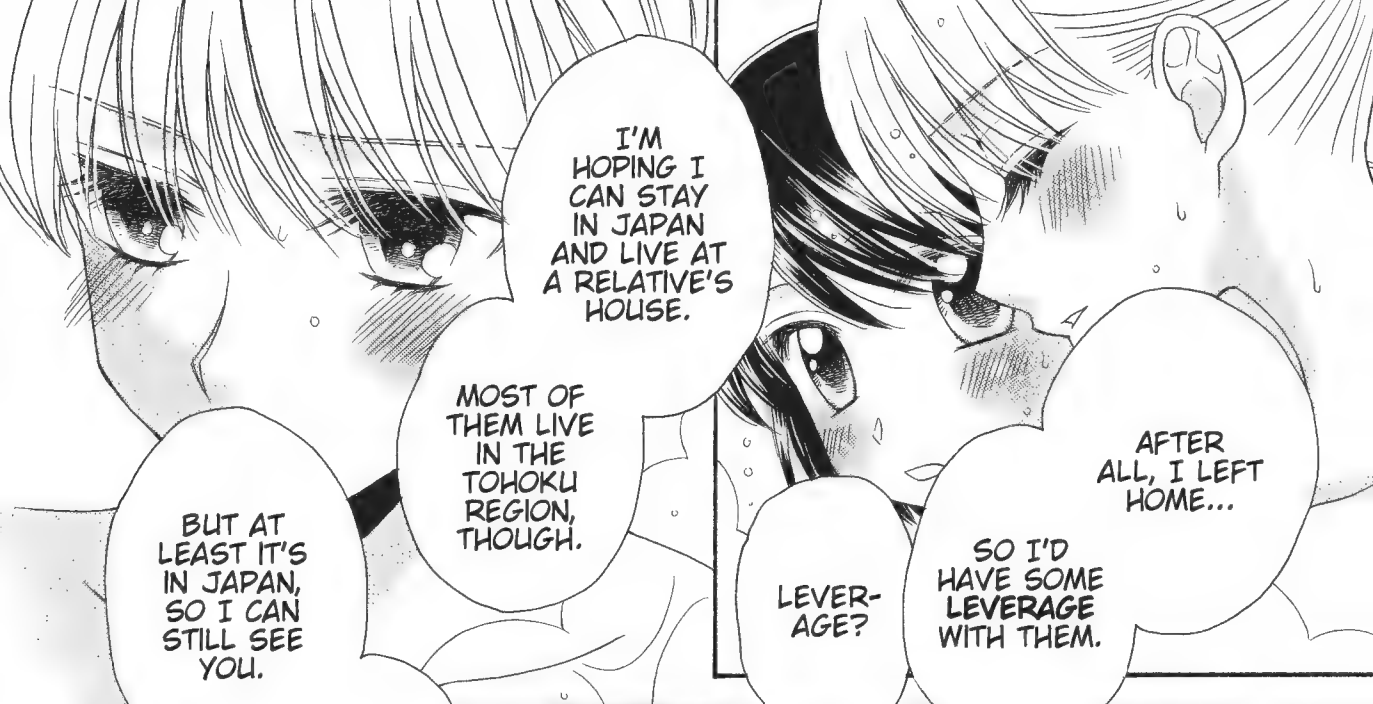
IT'S
JUST,
IN MY
ROOM...

IT'S
ALWAYS
DARK,
SO...

IT'S
THE FIRST
TIME WE'VE
EVER...

REALLY
SEEN
EACH
OTHER...
LIKE
THIS.





I'M
HOPING I
CAN STAY
IN JAPAN
AND LIVE AT
A RELATIVE'S
HOUSE.

MOST OF
THEM LIVE
IN THE
TOHOKU
REGION,
THOUGH.

BUT AT
LEAST IT'S
IN JAPAN,
SO I CAN
STILL SEE
YOU.

AFTER
ALL, I LEFT
HOME...

LEVER-
AGE?

SO I'D
HAVE SOME
LEVERAGE
WITH THEM.



AND I'LL
KEEP SAVING
MY MONEY,
SO...



I
THOUGHT
HITOMI WAS
BEING
RASH WHEN
SHE RAN
AWAY FROM
HOME...

I
PROMISE
WE'LL GO TO
THE SAME
COLLEGE,
NANA.

SHE
HAD
A PLAN
THIS
WHOLE
TIME.

BUT...

THIS
TIME WE
WILL...

GO TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL.



Ha ha!

WOW, YOUR FOLKS ARE PRETTY LAIDBACK.

THEY WEREN'T TOO WORRIED. THEY ASKED ME TO COME BACK SOON.

THEY'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME AT ALL!

HOW ABOUT YOU?

THEY TOLD MY SCHOOL I WAS OUT SICK.

OH! CHIE JUST TEXTED ME!

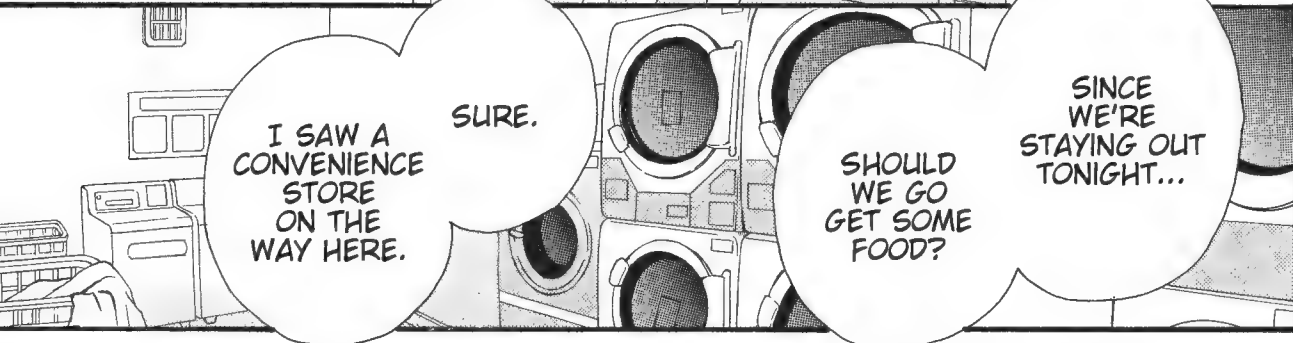
I don't get my parents...

TAP TAP

clap

THIS SUCKS!

NEXT DAY.



I SAW A CONVENIENCE STORE ON THE WAY HERE.

SURE.

SHOULD WE GO GET SOME FOOD?

SINCE WE'RE STAYING OUT TONIGHT...



YEAH. WE CAN SLEEP IN A MANGA CAFE THERE.

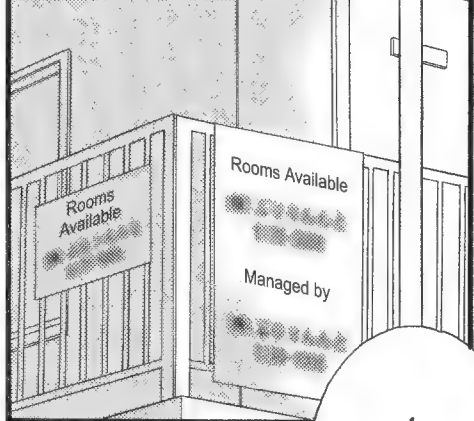
WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO BACK TO TOKYO TOMORROW.

THE ONLY WAY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM...

WE WERE STILL CHILDREN...

AND OUR PARENTS HAD ALL THE POWER.

WAS TO DO SOMETHING DRASTIC LIKE THIS.



BUT I
WONDER...

HOW
LONG
CAN WE
HOLD
OUT?



I'D
PROBABLY
WORK AT A
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

YOU LOOK
GOOD IN A
KIMONO, SO I
BET ONE OF THE
TRADITIONAL
INNS WOULD
HIRE YOU...

I'M
SURE WE
COULD GET
JOBS.

MAYBE
EVEN AT
ONE OF THE
NEARBY
HOTELS.



HUH...?

WHEN I
COME HOME
FROM WORK,
YOU'LL GREET
ME AT THE
DOOR WITH A
CUTE APRON
ON...

AND ASK
IF I WANT
TO TAKE
BATH, OR EAT
DINNER, OR,
WELL, YOU
KNOW.

WHAT I
DREAMED
OF...

WAIT...

THAT
ISN'T...



YOU WON'T
HAVE TO! YOU
CAN STAY AT
HOME AND COOK
US DELICIOUS
MEALS!

♪

I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF YOU,
NANA!



Uhh...

H-
HITOMI...

I ACTU-
ALLY...

HUH?

NANA...

WE
SHOULD
TAKE A
DIFFERENT
ROUTE.

WHISPER



IT WAS
SAFER
HERE THAN
SHIBUYA,
BUT...

I
THOUGHT...

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS TO
ME, AS LONG
AS NANA
IS SAFE.

AH!

HITOMI...

GAASP

IT'S
MY
FAULT...

HUFF

FOR
DRAG-
GING
NANA
INTO
THIS
MESS.

OVER
HERE!

NANA,
STAY
RIGHT
HERE.

DON'T
WORRY, I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK. I
PROMISE.

WHAT
...?



CHAPTER 12 OUR STORY



NANA,
STAY
HERE.

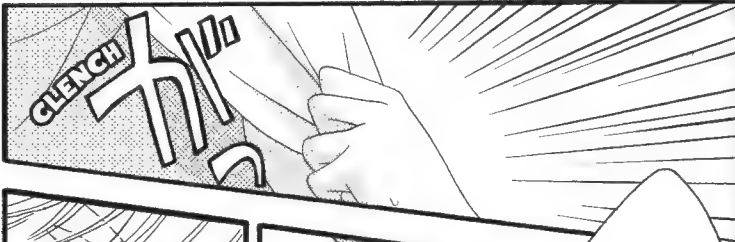


AND
LOSE
THEM
SOME-
WHERE.

I'LL
LURE
THEM
AWAY
FROM
NANA...



DON'T
WORRY,
I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK. I
PROMISE.



GLENCH



WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO DO?

HITOMI?

NANA...



I...

I DON'T WANT THAT, HITOMI.

EH?

I CAN'T JUST HIDE HERE WHILE YOU PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER.

THAT...

THAT ISN'T WHY...

I CAME WITH YOU.

DON'T WORRY, NANA.

I SAID I'D TAKE CARE OF YOU, DIDN'T I?

I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE.

SHAKE
SHAKE...

NANA...

N...

PLEASE,
LET GO.

I'LL BE
OKAY...

IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
I'D NEVER
FORGIVE
MYSELF!

BUT...

IT'S MY
FAULT
FOR
PULLING
YOU INTO
THIS
MESS!

NO...

**NO WAY,
HITOMI!!**

NOOOO!!





NANA?



PHEW!

THEY'RE GONE!

SIGH...

B-
BUT...
WE STILL
NEED TO
TALK.



THAT'S NOT
THE POINT!
YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING!

I JUST
WANT YOU
TO BE SAFE,
NANA! I
LOVE YOU
SO MUCH.

I
KNOW,
BUT...



I...

I
DON'T
NEED
YOU...

TO
PROTECT
ME ALL
THE
TIME.





I WANT
TO BE
EQUALS.

I
DON'T
WANT
THAT.

WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
TAKE ON ALL
THE RISKS
AND PUT
YOURSELF IN
DANGER?

WHY
ARE YOU
ACTING LIKE
YOU HAVE
TO BE "THE
MAN" IN THIS
RELATION-
SHIP?



YOU FEEL
SMOTHERED.

I
GET
IT...

EVERY
TIME
SHE
SAYS
SHE'LL
"PROTECT"
ME...

BUT...
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SHOULDER
IT ALL
YOUR-
SELF.

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
A HARD
WORKER,
HITOMI...

I
FEEL
SO
HAPPY...

YET
FRUS-
TRATED
AT THE
SAME
TIME.

I'M NOT
SURE IF
I CAN
EXPLAIN
IT, BUT--

I'LL
BE
MORE
CARE-
FUL.

EH?

NO!
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT...!

.....

BECAUSE
OF THE
STRONG
BOND...

WE
SHARE
...

IT
WOULD
BE DIF-
FERENT.

IF WE
WERE
BOYFRIEND
AND GIRL-
FRIEND...

I
MEAN...

I
THOUGHT
...

WE
UNDER-
STOOD
EACH
OTHER...

BUT
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...

WHY IS
IT SO
HARD...

SO...!

TO
EXPLAIN
THAT
I...

THAT'S...

EXACTLY
WHY...

HUH?

.....



IF WE WERE
A NORMAL
COUPLE...

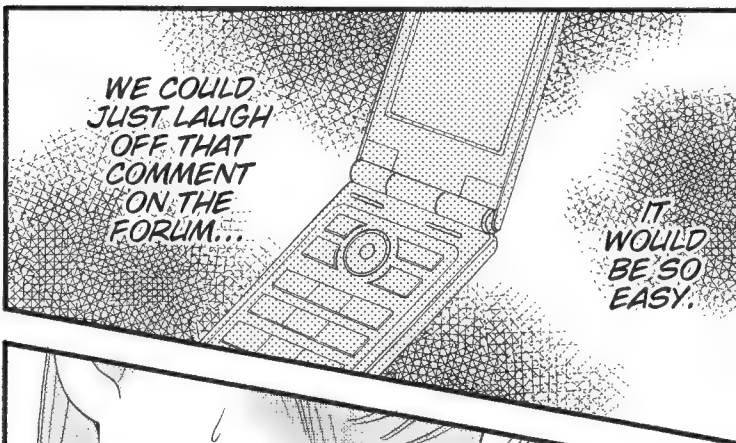
YOU'D
PROBABLY
HAVE A
BOYFRIEND
BY NOW.

IF I
HADN'T
FALLEN
FOR
YOU...



IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR ME...

YOU'D
HAVE A
NORMAL
LIFE.



WE COULD
JUST LAUGH
OFF THAT
COMMENT
ON THE
FORUM...

IT
WOULD
BE SO
EASY.



AND HAVE
A NORMAL
LIFE.

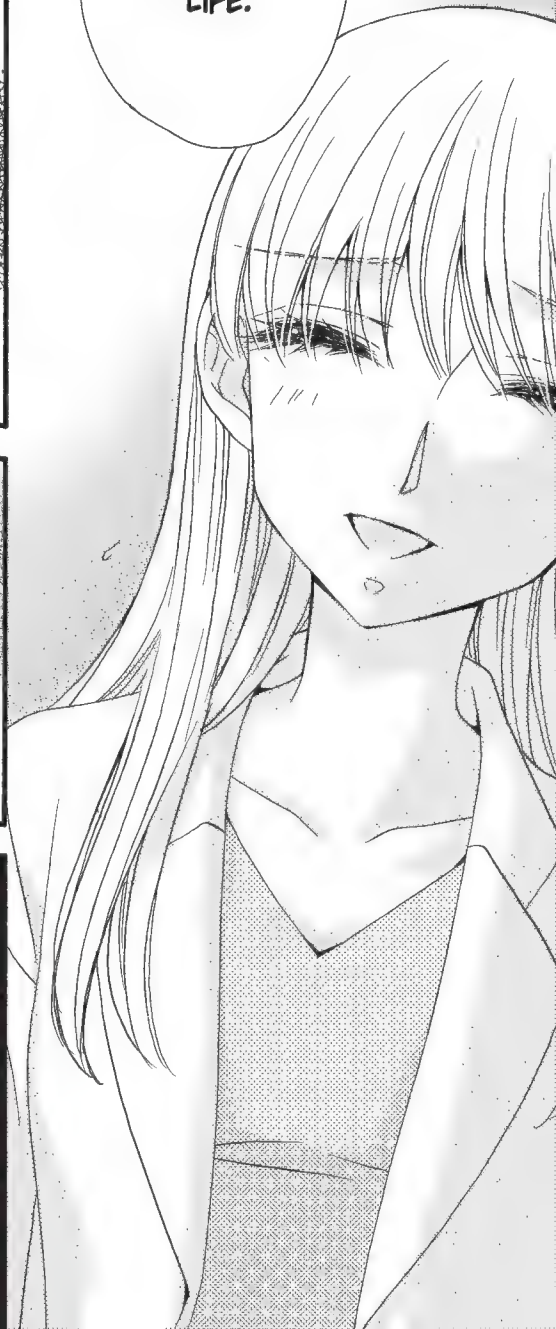
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND
WOULD
...

AND
WHEN
SOME
DRUNKS
GIVE YOU
TROUBLE...



PROTECT
YOU.

I
KNOW I'M
NOT AS
STRONG
AS A
MAN.





SO
THAT'S
WHY...

BUT I JUST
WANT TO BE
WITH NANA. I
DON'T WANT
TO LOSE HER.

I WANT TO
BE STRONG
FOR HER.



AND
TRIED TO
PROTECT
ME?

YOU...

ACTED
LIKE A
GUY...



JEEZ...

HITOMI...

I'M SO
SORRY,
HITOMI...

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

I FEEL
THE SAME.

I DIDN'T
KNOW HITOMI
FELT THAT
WAY...



HITOMI...

I LOVE
YOU JUST
AS MUCH...

AS
YOU
LOVE
ME.

AND...

I
WANT TO
PROTECT
YOU TOO,
HITOMI.

I WANT TO BE
SO STRONG THAT
YOU NEVER NEED
ANYONE ELSE.

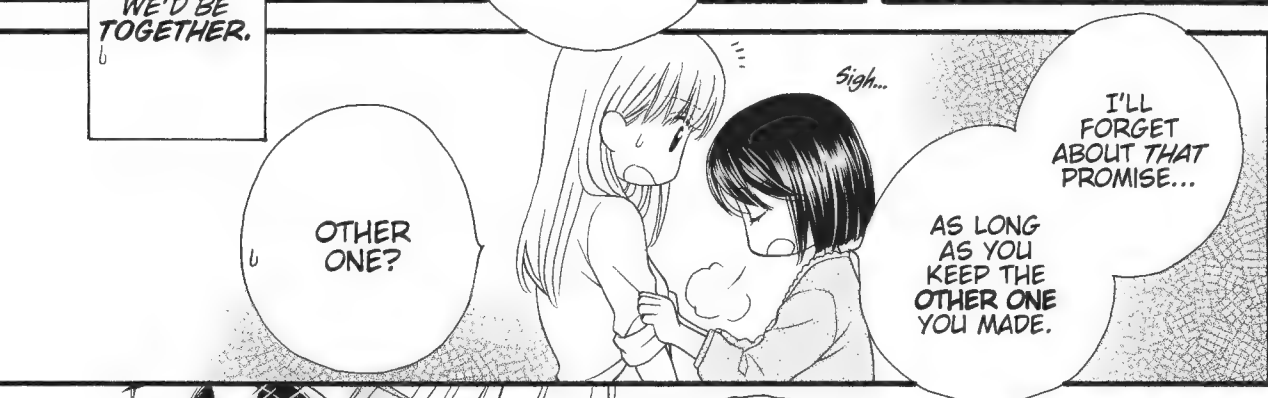
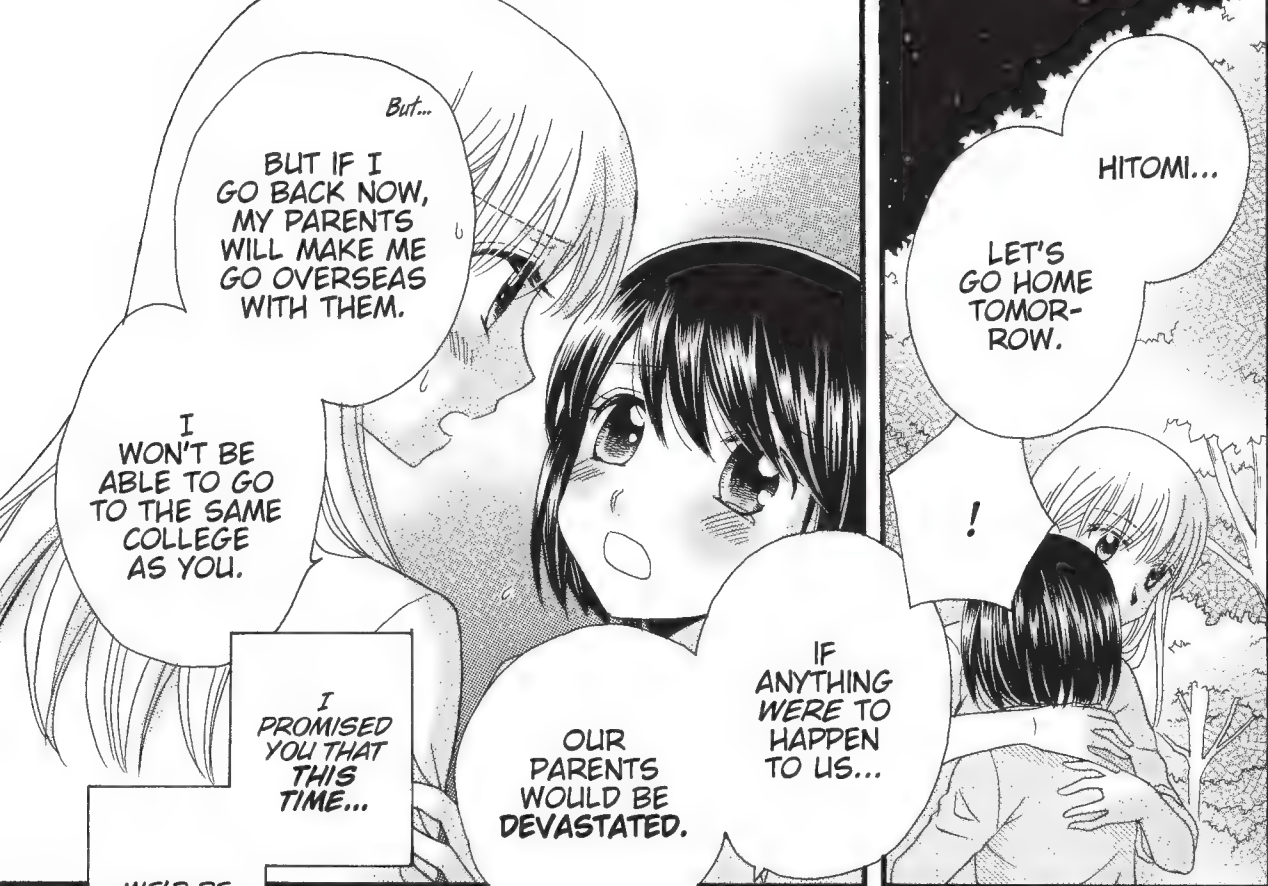
I WANT
TO LOVE YOU
MORE...

EVEN
THOUGH
WE'RE
ALWAYS
TOGETHER
...

I
THINK...

AND FEEL
YOUR LOVE.

WE NEED
TO TALK
ABOUT
OUR
FEELINGS
MORE
OFTEN.



Hmm.

THEY
PROBABLY
STARTED IT
BEFORE THE
ECONOMY
TOOK A NOSE
DIVE. HEY, BE
CAREFUL,
NANA...

IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY
STOPPED
CONSTRUCTION
MIDWAY.

GLANCE

I-IT
MIGHT BE
HAUNTED.

HUH? I
DUNNO...
SOME SORT
OF LUXURY
CONDO,
MAYBE?

BY THE
WAY...

NANA...

WHAT
ARE THEY
BUILDING
HERE?

WOW!
HITOMI,
LOOK!

NO
IDEA.

I
WONDER
WHAT IT'S
LIKE?

I'VE
NEVER
LIVED IN
A CONDO
BEFORE.

THE
STARS ARE
AMAZING!

YOU
SAID
THIS
WAS...

OUR
HONEY-
MOON!

HITOMI,
LET'S LIVE
IN A CONDO
LIKE THIS!



COME
TO
THINK
OF IT...

NANA
WAS
ALWAYS
THE
STRONGER
ONE
DURING
TOUGH
TIMES.

PROMISE?



Wow!

Look!



IT WAS
THAT
INNER
STRENGTH
THAT
DREW ME
TO HER...

SURE...

THAT
MADE ME
FALL IN
LOVE.

WELL, IT'S
ALMOST
OVER, BUT
LET'S MAKE
THE BEST
OF WHAT'S
LEFT!

Hehe!

HUH? THE
BEST OF
WHAT?

YOU
KNOW...



HEY... DID YOU REALLY RUN AWAY FROM HOME?

HITOMI?!

Idiot!

WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?! WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL OR TEXT ME?!

WHERE ARE YOU--

YOU STILL COULD HAVE CALLED!

SORRY, I HAD A LOT GOING ON...



I COULDN'T BELIEVE SEMPAI WOULD MISS THREE DAYS OF SCHOOL FOR NO REASON...

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

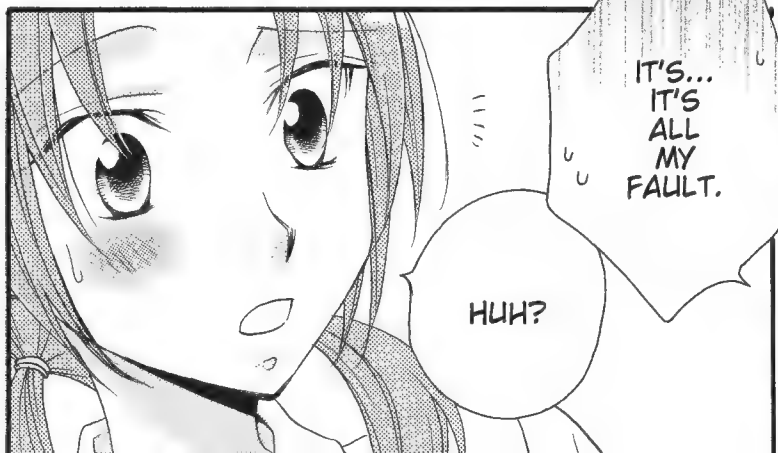
SHIVER

SHIVER



F- FUJIMORI- SEMPAI...

R-RAN AWAY?



IT'S... IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

HUH?

OH CRAP...



IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU RAN AWAY BECAUSE OF THAT, RIGHT?

SO IT WAS KAGAMI AFTER ALL.

I'm an awful person!

Waaaaaaah!

I POSTED THAT COMMENT ON THE BASKETBALL FORUM!

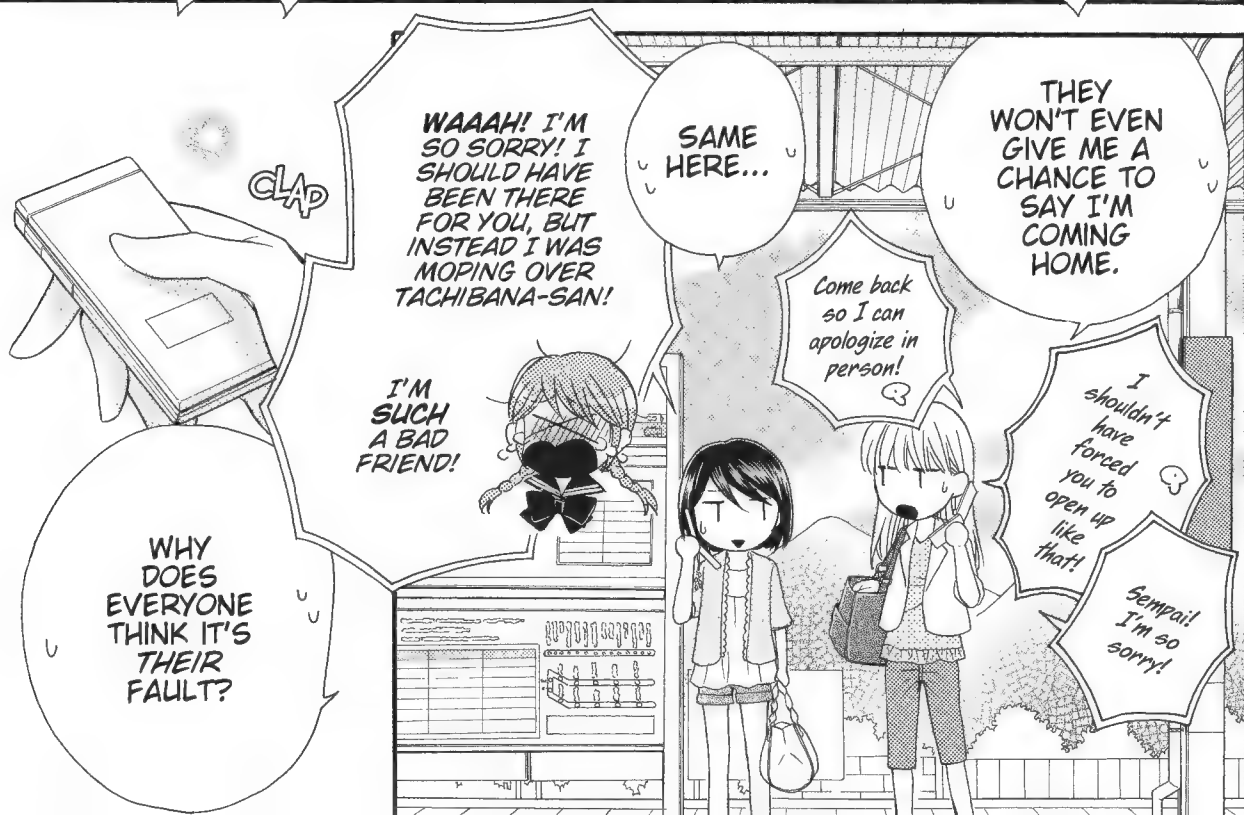
D R I P



I PROMISE I'LL NEVER TRICK YOU INTO TELLING ME YOUR SECRETS AGAIN! IT WAS JUST THAT ONE TIME!

GRAB- がばっ

WAAAAH! I'M SORRY, HITOMI!



WAAAAH! I'M SO SORRY! I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOU, BUT INSTEAD I WAS MOPING OVER TACHIBANA-SAN!

SAME HERE...

THEY WON'T EVEN GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SAY I'M COMING HOME.

Come back so I can apologize in person!

I'M SUCH A BAD FRIEND!

I shouldn't have forced you to open up like that!

Sempai! I'm so sorry!

WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK IT'S THEIR FAULT?

THROUGH
ALL THE
MIS-
UNDER-
STANDINGS
...

We're lucky,
aren't we?

Heh. !!!

PROBABLY.
!!!

BECAUSE
THEY LOVE
US?

THROUGH
THE
FEAR OF
LONELINESS
AND THE
HOPE OF
FINALLY
BEING AC-
CEPTED...

THROUGH
ALL THAT...

THROUGH
ALL THE
CLUMSILY
EXPRESSED
FEELINGS...

HEY,
HITOMI...

WE'RE
ABLE...

TO BE
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS.

What?
Like rice
cakes?
They'd
be so
pissed!

Should we buy
souvenirs for
everyone? OH!

Kinugawa



MAYBE
I'LL
WIN HIM
OVER!

THE
WORST
HE CAN
DO IS SAY
IS NO,
RIGHT?

AND I'LL
BEG HIM
NOT TO TAKE
YOU AWAY!

I'LL
TALK TO
YOUR
DAD...

AS SOON
AS WE
GET BACK,
I'M GOING
TO YOUR
HOUSE!



WHAT'S
WRONG,
HITOMI?

LEAN

OH,
NANA...



RUNAWAY
HONEY-
MOON
ENDED.

THIS WAS
HOW OUR
FIRST...

We can both
be strong,
you know...

JEEZ!
YOU'RE
STILL
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT?

EVER SINCE
LAST NIGHT,
YOU'VE BEEN
LIKE A KNIGHT
IN SHINING
ARMOR.
♡

I'M
STARTING
TO LOSE
MY STATUS
AS THE
MANLY
ONE.

I'm no
match for
you...



HITOMI...

YOU CAN
STAY IN
JAPAN.

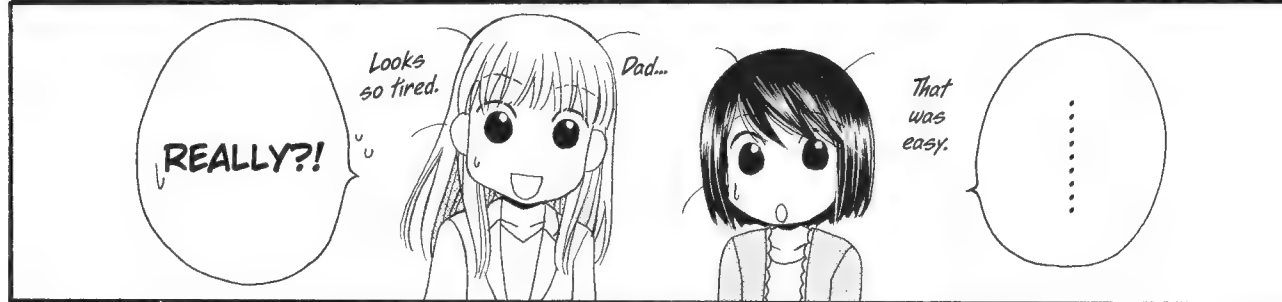
EXHAUSTED

EVERY-
THING
WORKED
OUT.

AND...

ALL
RIGHT...
FINE.

Sigh.



*Looks
so tired.*

Dad...

*That
was
easy.*

REALLY?!

...



NO
PROBLEM!
WE'LL TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HITOMI-
CHAN.

♪

THANK
YOU FOR
MAKING
ALL THE
ARRANGE-
MENTS,
KOBAYASHI-
SAN.

HUH?



Unbelievable!

I TOLD HIM IT JUST
DIDN'T MAKE SENSE,
ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE'S
ALMOST DONE WITH HIGH
SCHOOL. BUT ALL HE COULD
SAY WAS, "FAMILIES SHOULDN'T
SPLIT UP!" EVENTUALLY HE
SAW REASON. AND IT'S NOT
LIKE HE'S GOING ALONE.
I'M STILL GOING
WITH HIM.

*He was
going to
search all of
Japan to find
her! As if he
has the energy
for that!*

I'M SORRY
FOR NANA-
CHAN GETTING
DRAGGED INTO
THIS MESS.

*He
wasn't
worried
at all.*

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
THEY'RE
HOME
SAFE AND
SOUND NOW,
AND THAT'S
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

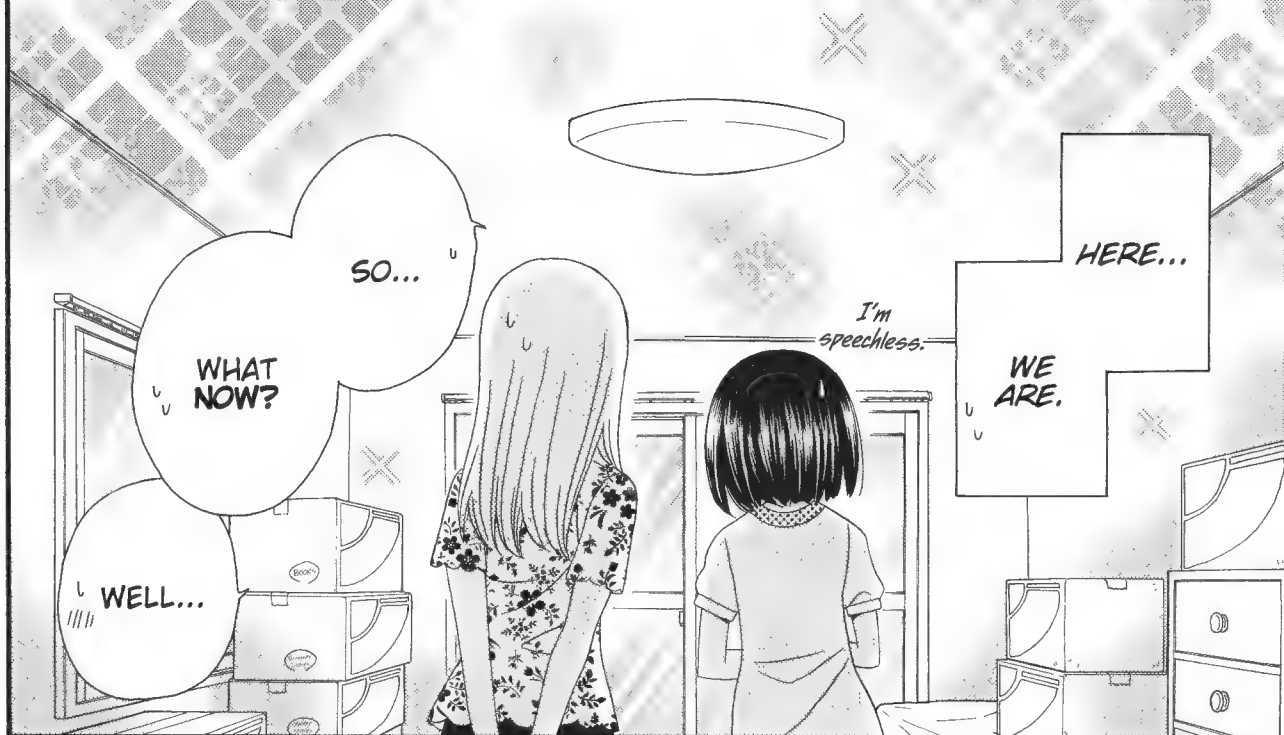
*It's nice that he cares
so much. My husband,
on the other hand...*

*He still acts
like he's in the
college mountain
climbing club.*

*I'm
gonna
sleep.*

No...
waaay.





WHAT NOW?

SO...

WELL...

I'm speechless.

HERE...

WE ARE.

YOUR SAVINGS?

Did the move cost a lot?

YOU KNOW...

I FEEL LIKE I'VE USED UP ALL MY SAVINGS.

Hmm...

AND I MIGHT NOT GET IN EITHER, LEAVING US TO STUDY FOR ANOTHER YEAR LIKE A COUPLE OF DEADBEATS.

BUT IF YOU USED UP ALL YOUR HAPPINESS, THEN... YOU MIGHT FAIL THE ENTRANCE EXAM...

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE NEWLY-WEDS!!

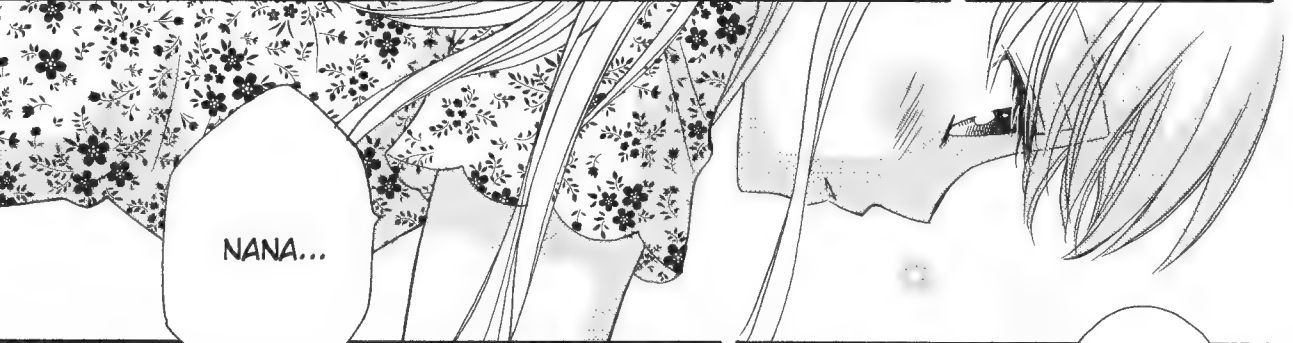
I LANDED A NEW STUDIO APARTMENT...

MY HAPPINESS SAVINGS!!

Whoo-hoo!

That worries me.

SHOCK



AND TOMORROW...

THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
THEY WILL
EVER BE
FULFILLED...

ISN'T
THAT
GREAT?

AND THERE
ARE EVEN
PLACES
WHERE WE
CAN HAVE A
CEREMONY!

WE CAN
REGISTER
OUR
MARRIAGE...

Moving
Center

Moving
Center

Moving
Center

EVEN IF THERE AREN'T ANY
LAWS OR REGULATIONS
TO BIND US TOGETHER...

I
PROMISE.

YOU'RE
FULL OF
PROMISES,
AREN'T
YOU?

I
HOPE...

OUR
STORY WILL
CONTINUE...

FOREVER.

CHAPTER 12 END



くちびるためいきさくらいろ

K u c h i b i r u T a m e i k i S a k u r a i r o



HEY, IS THAT A NEW DESSERT?

IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!

BUT I'M CAREFUL. I MAKE SURE I NEVER TOUCH HER MORE THAN THREE TIMES A DAY.

Yum!

SO THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD STAND OUT.

AT AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, YOU ALWAYS SEE GIRLS PLAYING AROUND...

THANKS, BUT IT'S EASY TO MAKE.

I JUST STIRRED THE INGREDIENTS TOGETHER AND LEFT IT IN THE FRIDGE OVERNIGHT.



BACK OFF! I ALWAYS GET FIRST DIBS!

Aaah! ♥

ME TOO!

I WANT SOME!

OH! ERI'S HOME-MADE DESSERT!

I MAKE SURE THAT I NEVER GET TOO CLOSE...



IT'S EASY TO MAKE. I'LL TEACH YOU...

YOU COULD EVEN MAKE IT FOR A BOY YOU LIKE.

YOU'RE A WIZARD IN THE KITCHEN, ERI-CHAN!

DELICIOUS AS ALWAYS! YOU'RE AMAZING!

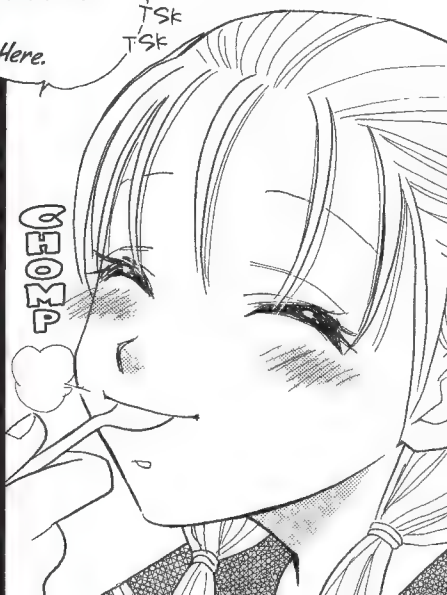
It's sooo good! ♥

I TRY TO GET AS CLOSE AS I CAN WITHOUT GIVING PEOPLE IDEAS.

SHEESH!

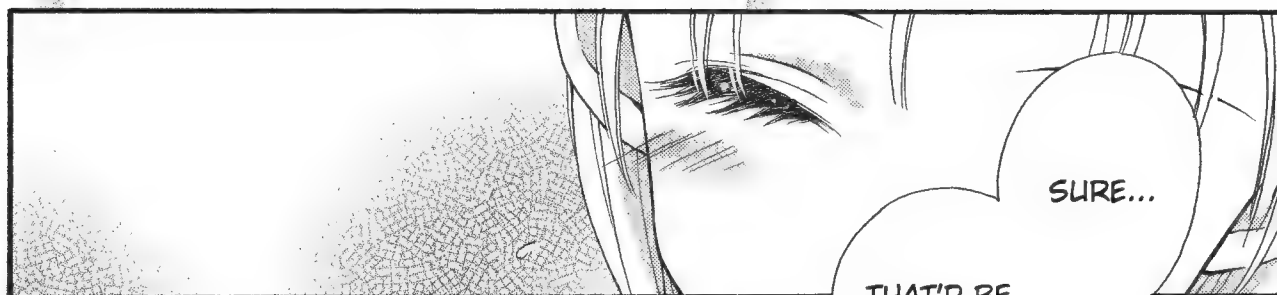
Here.

TSK TSK



MEOW

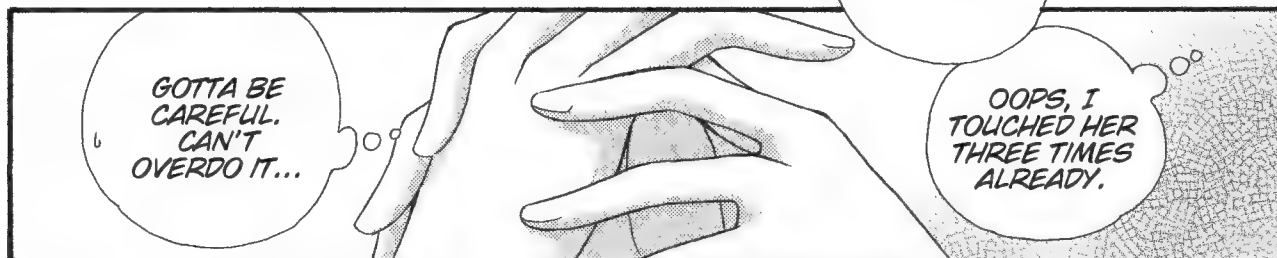
MY LOVE IS IMPOSSIBLE.



SURE...

THAT'D BE GREAT!

BUT I'M NOT SAD AT ALL.



GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
CAN'T OVERDO IT...

OOPS, I TOUCHED HER THREE TIMES ALREADY.

I DON'T HAVE TO BE HER SPECIAL SOMEONE AS LONG AS I CAN BE NEAR HER.



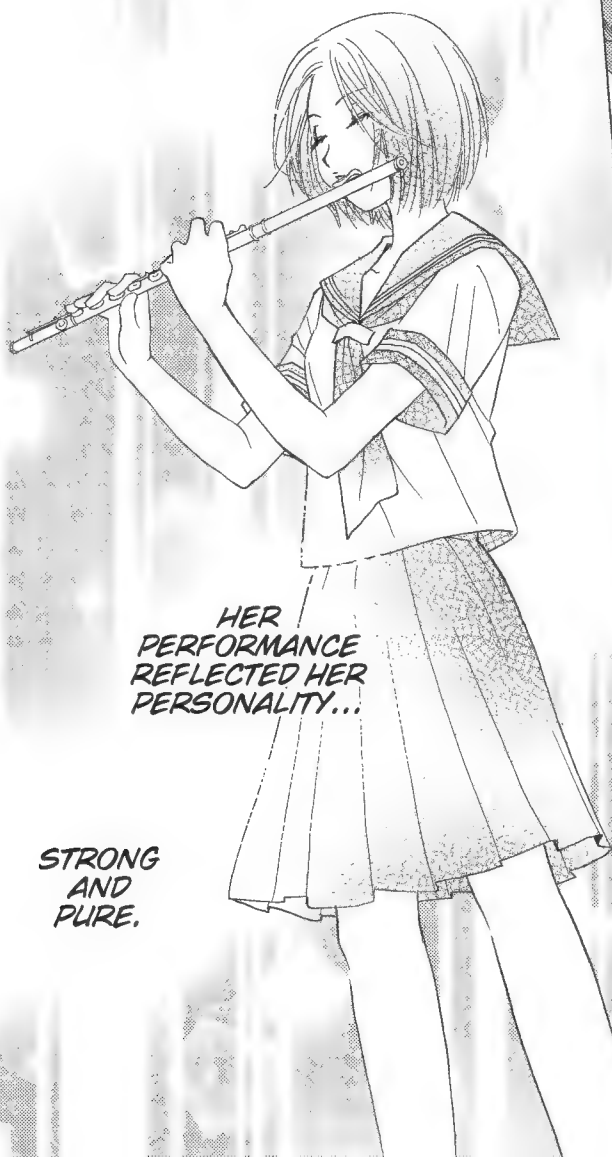
TEACH ME SOON, OKAY?

I JUST HAVE TO
KEEP MY FEELINGS
TO MYSELF.

CHAPTER 13
CHERRY ON HER LIPS

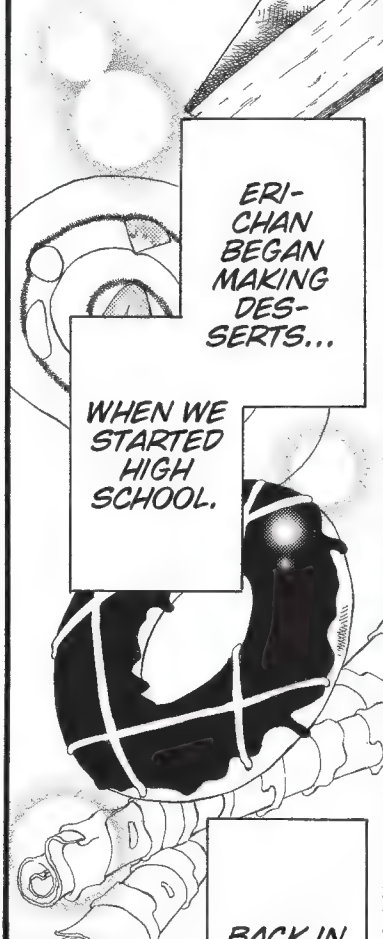


HER FINGERS
MOVED SO
GRACEFULLY.



HER
PERFORMANCE
REFLECTED HER
PERSONALITY...

STRONG
AND
PURE.



ERI-
CHAN
BEGAN
MAKING
DES-
SERTS...

WHEN WE
STARTED
HIGH
SCHOOL.

BACK IN
JUNIOR
HIGH...

SHE
HAD A
SILVER
FLUTE
THAT
WAS AS
ELEGANT
AS SHE
WAS.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
IT.

Sakurakai
Girls'
High
School
Musical
Band
Concert



WHEN WE
BECAME
CLASS-
MATES
IN HIGH
SCHOOL...

I JUST
KNEW
THAT
WE'D BE
FRIENDS.



I
WANTED
TO SPEND
EVERY
FREE
MOMENT
WITH
HER...

AND
THEN I
GOT MY
WISH.



LUCKILY,
MY
DOMINANT
ARM
WASN'T
INJURED...

SO
I'LL STILL
BE ABLE
TO DO
SCHOOL-
WORK.



BUT I'LL
HAVE
TO QUIT
BAND...

AT LEAST
I'LL GET
TO SPEND
MORE TIME
WITH YOU,
CHIHARU-
CHAN.

IT'S
BEEN
TWO
YEARS
SINCE
THEN.



EH?!

DO YOU WANT THE REST?

Umm...
There's not much left.

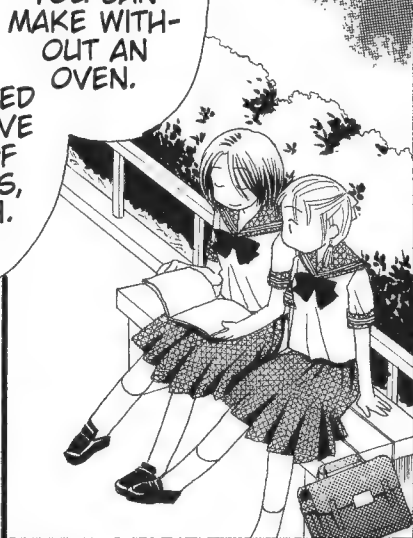


AFTER THAT, WE DID SPEND A LOT MORE TIME TOGETHER.

THERE ARE LOTS OF DESSERTS YOU CAN MAKE WITHOUT AN OVEN.

THE DEEP-FRIED ONES HAVE A LOT OF CALORIES, THOUGH.

THE MORE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER, THE CLOSER WE GOT.



Did I look desperate?

OH, THANKS! I WAS SUPER THIRSTY!

OH CRAP. SHE CAUGHT ME STARING...

SOON WE WERE BEST FRIENDS, BUT...

AN INDIRECT KISS... HEHEHE.

Ah!

Sip



I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU!

CHIHARU, IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN HERE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY...



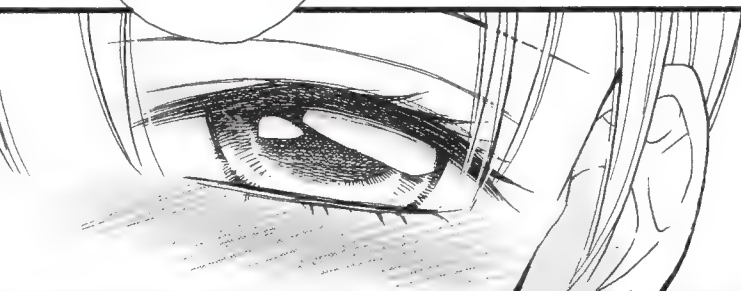




BUT
SHE'S
ASLEEP...
I GUESS
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

THIS
IS THE
FOURTH
TIME
TODAY...

TOUCH



I SHOULDN'T WISH
FOR ANYTHING MORE.

WE
GRADUATE
NEXT
YEAR...



I
WISH...

I WISH
THE WORLD
WOULD END
RIGHT NOW.

I'LL
JUST
ENJOY
THIS...

WHILE IT
LASTS.



AAAAH!



OR, THAT
THIS COULD
LAST FOR-
EVER.



YOU
GUYS
ARE
REALLY
CLOSE.

Baby bird
and mama?

IT'S
KINDA
WEIRD...

CHOMP



UNTIL I
EAT YOUR
DESSERTS
AT LUNCH-
TIME!

ERI, MY
STOMACH
ISN'T
HAPPY...

Ha ha!

WANT
ANOTHER
ONE?



MMM-
MMM!
DELISH!

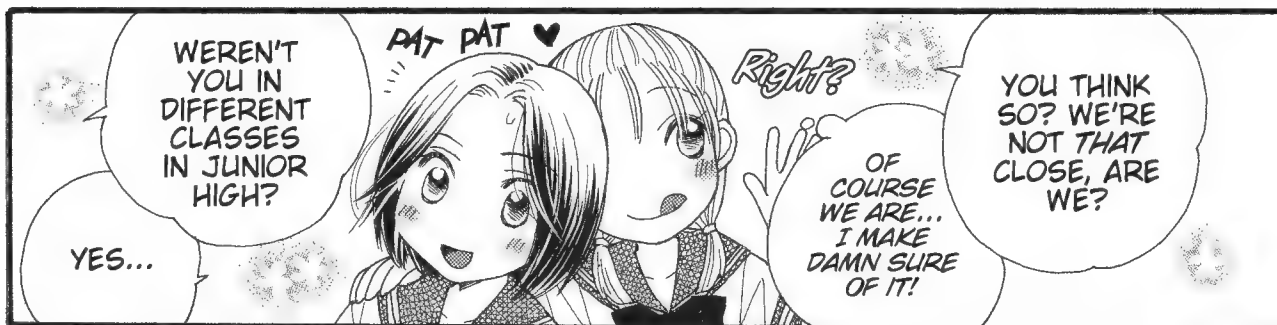
CHOMP

So
good...

MUNCH

MUNCH
MM!

Perfect!



WEREN'T
YOU IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES
IN JUNIOR
HIGH?

YES...

PAT PAT ♥

Right?

OF
COURSE
WE ARE...
I MAKE
DAMN SURE
OF IT!

YOU THINK
SO? WE'RE
NOT THAT
CLOSE, ARE
WE?



IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE A
COUPLE OR
SOMETHING.

IT'S
JUST THE
WAY YOU
TWO ACT
SOMETIMES.

WISHING FOR
THINGS IS
DANGEROUS.

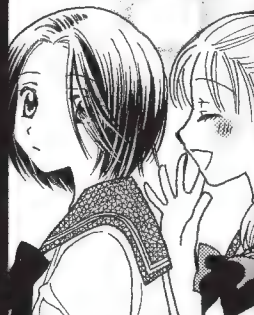


DON'T
EVER
GO
THERE,
EVEN IF
IT'S A
JOKE.
SHE
CAN'T
EVER
KNOW.

JEEZ!

DON'T
BE
SILLY!

STOP
IT.



I KNOW. I SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT IT.

BUT...

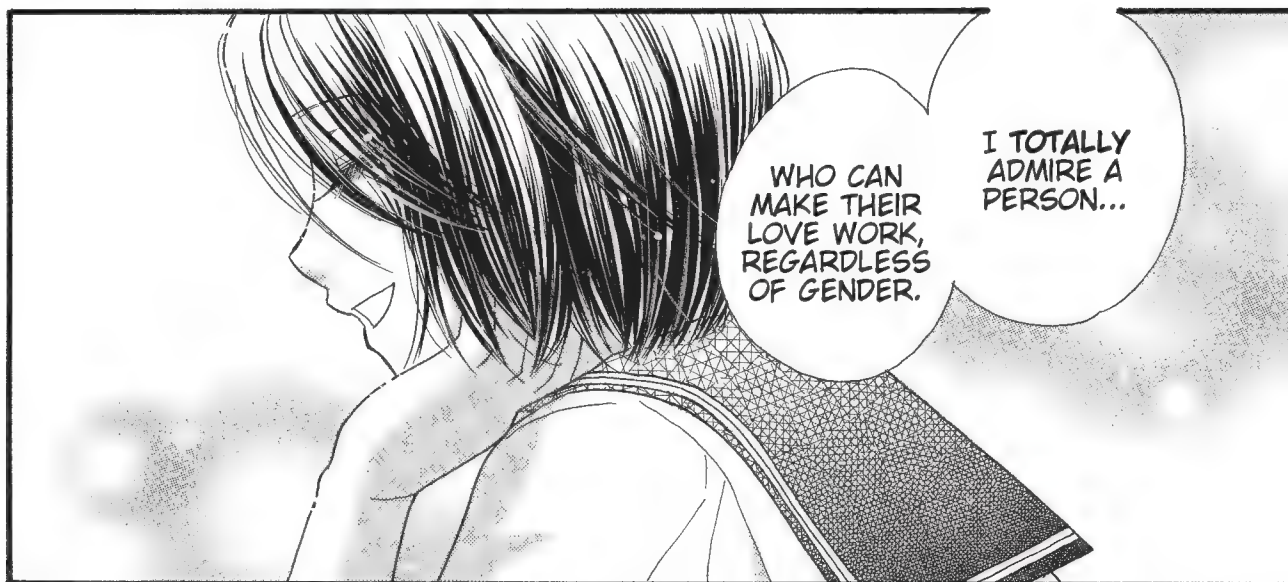
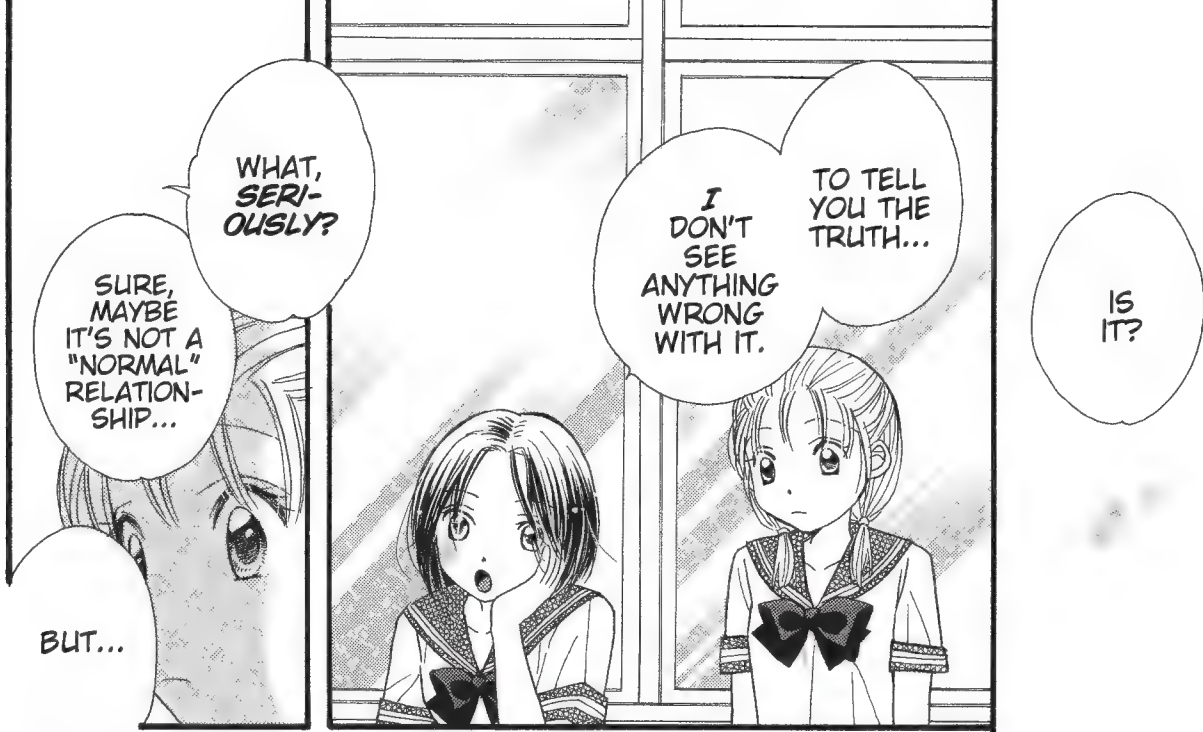
THAT'S...

WHY...



SO
GROSS.

WHY IS IT
WRONG FOR ME
TO WANT
HER LIKE THAT?



I LOVE
YOU, ERI.

I LOVE
YOUR PURE
HEART.

I LOVE
YOU SO
MUCH.

IF I
SAID
THAT...

WOULD
IT
MAKE
YOU
HAPPY?

YOU SAID
YOU AD-
MIRERD...

PEOPLE
LIKE
ME.

Ohh...

MY HEART
HURTS.

I'M NOT
SICK OR
ANYTHING...
BUT THIS
PAIN IS
REAL.

Sigh...

I'VE BEEN
FANTASIZ-
ING ABOUT
THINGS I
SHOULDN'T...

BUT I
STILL
WANT
MORE.

HER
DRINK...

I NEED
TO WORK
HARDER.

THEN YOU
ADD SOME
HONEY...

MIGHT
HURT
YOU.

OTHER-
WISE
MY
FEEL-
INGS...

DRIP

DRIP

...

...

SORRY,
WHAT DID
YOU SAY?

HUH?

CHIHARU?

ARE
YOU
LISTEN-
ING?

Ah!

...

I HOPE
WE'RE
STILL
FRIENDS...

EVEN
AFTER WE
GRADUATE.

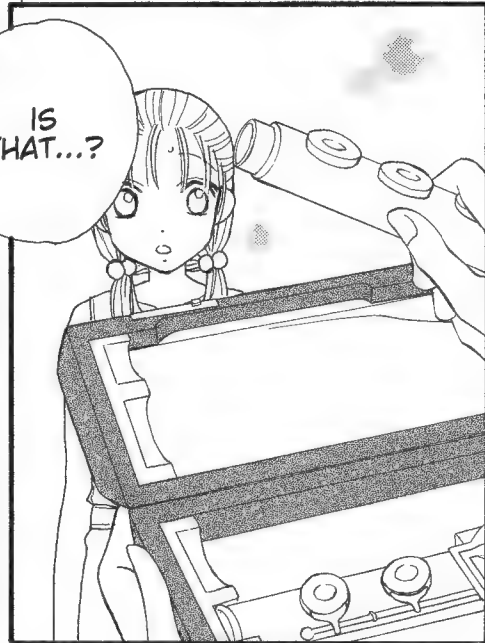
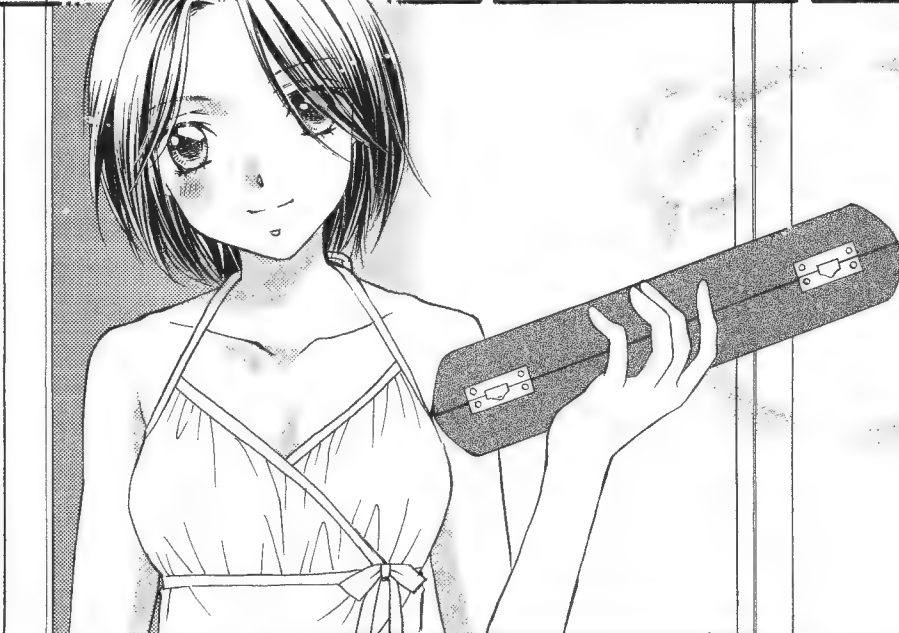
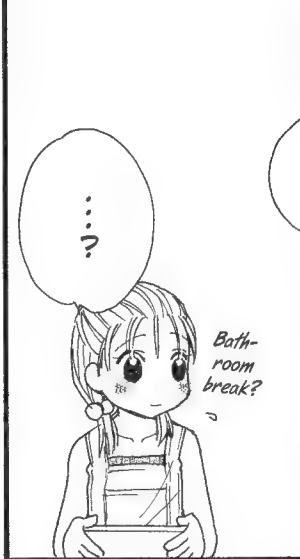
UMM, DO
I ADD THE
EGG YOLK
NOW?

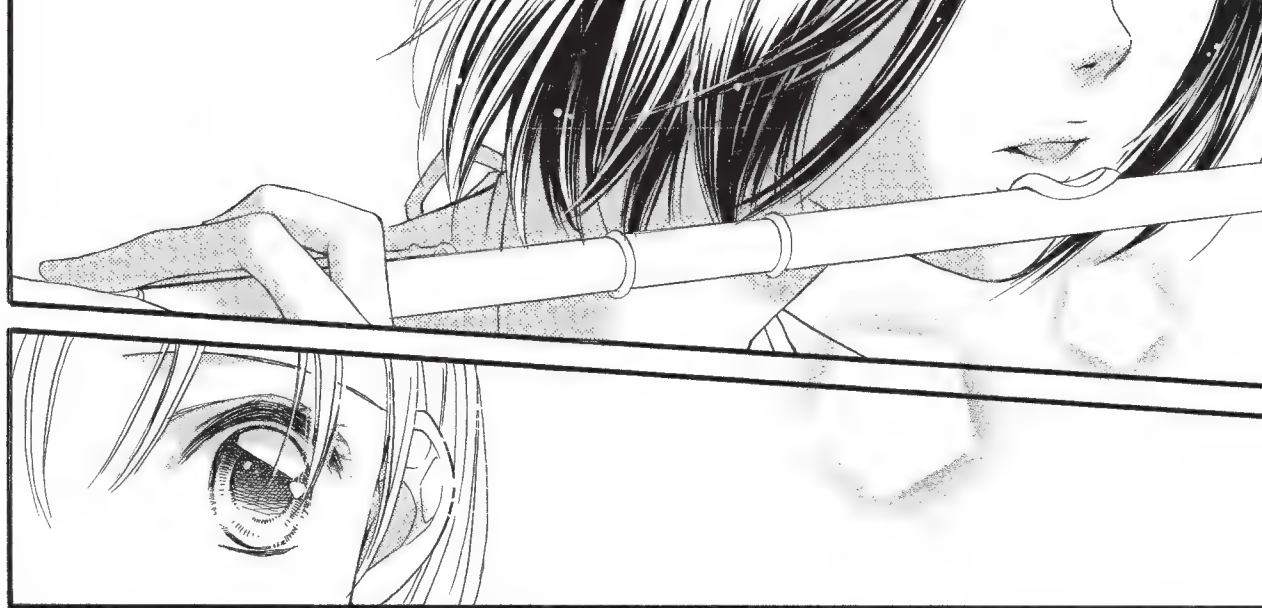
STIR
STIR

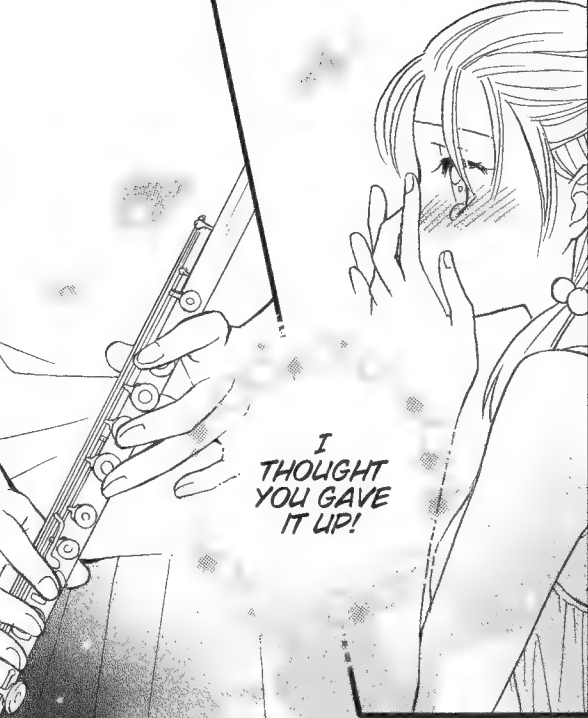
OH
SHOOT, I
SHOULDN'T
SPACE OUT
LIKE THAT.

IT'S NOT
OFTEN THAT
ERI INVITES
ME TO HER
HOUSE.









I
THOUGHT
YOU GAVE
IT UP!



I CAN'T
PLAY AS
WELL AS
BEFORE...

SO CUT
ME SOME
SLACK,
OKAY?

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE...

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

SO
STRONG,
YET
GENTLE
...

CHIHARU,
YOU'VE
SEEMED
KIND OF
SAD
LATELY.



WHY?



THAT
TIME I
HURT MY
ARM...

YOU WERE
ALWAYS
WITH ME,
SMILING AND
LAUGHING...



I WASN'T
SURE IF
THIS WOULD
CHEER
YOU UP...

BUT I
REMEM-
BERED HOW
MUCH YOU
LIKED TO
LISTEN TO
ME PLAYING
THE FLUTE.

AND
PURE.

YOU
REALLY
CHEERED
ME UP.



It's so
good, I'm
melting!



SO
PLEASE,
CHEER
UP!

YOU'VE
ALREADY
BEEN
THROUGH
SO
MUCH...

I NEVER
WANT TO
PUT YOU
THROUGH
MORE PAIN.



IT'S
THANKS
TO YOU...

THAT I
DISCOVER-
ED MY
OTHER
TALENT!

I'm thinking
of becoming a
professional
pastry chef.



I SUCK,
DON'T I?
SORRY...

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I
PLAYED.

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
TROUBLE
YOU...

WITH MY
FEELINGS.

BUT
YOUR
MUSIC...

REMINDED
ME...

CLAP

Actually...

I PRACTICED
A LITTLE BIT
YESTERDAY.



THAT
YOU'RE
ACTU-
ALLY...

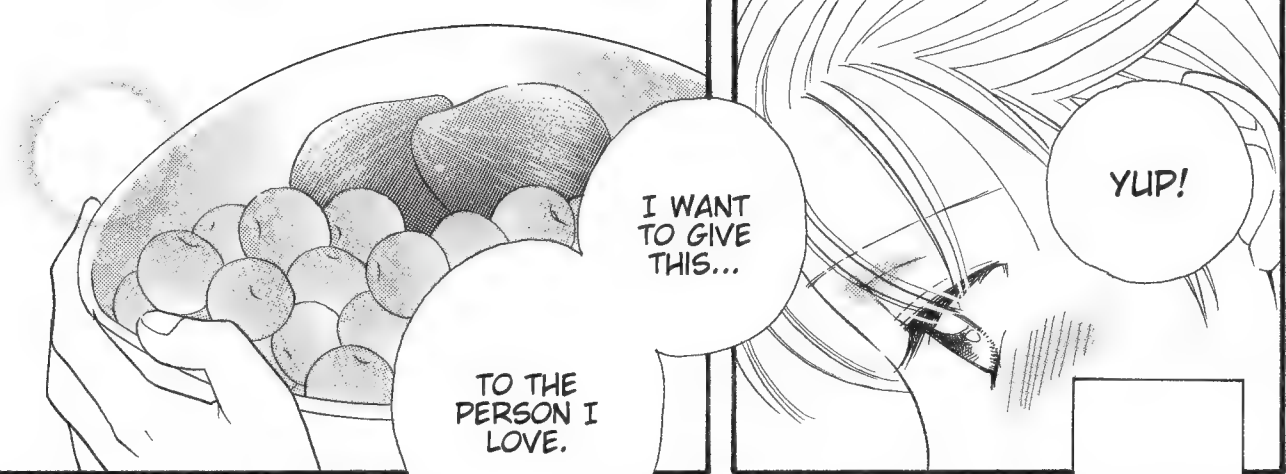
A VERY
STRONG
PERSON.



I WASN'T
PROTECTING
ERI...

I WAS JUST
PROTECTING
MYSELF.





I WANT
TO GIVE
THIS...

YUP!

TO THE
PERSON I
LOVE.

YES...



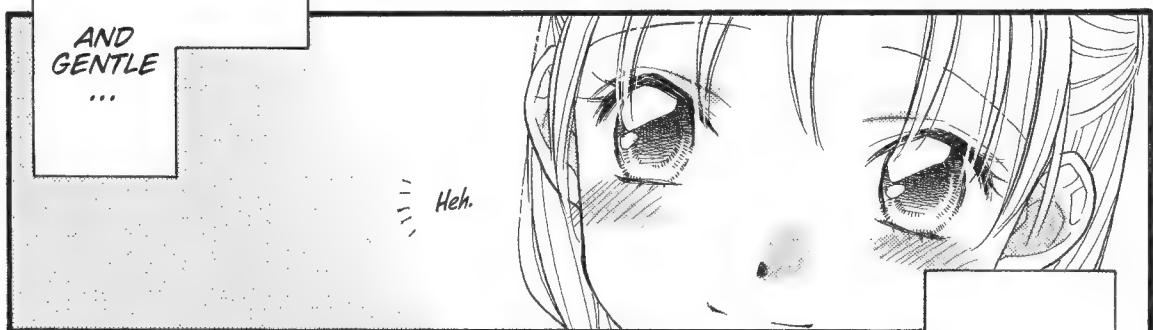
Oh!

THE
PERSON
I LOVE
IS...

So that's
why you're so
motivated.

VERY
STRONG
...

AND
GENTLE
...




Heh.

AND
PURE-
HEARTED.



I'M NOT
SCARED
ANYMORE.



EVEN IF I'M
NOT YOUR
NUMBER ONE...




AND EVEN IF
I CAN'T BE WITH
YOU ANYMORE...



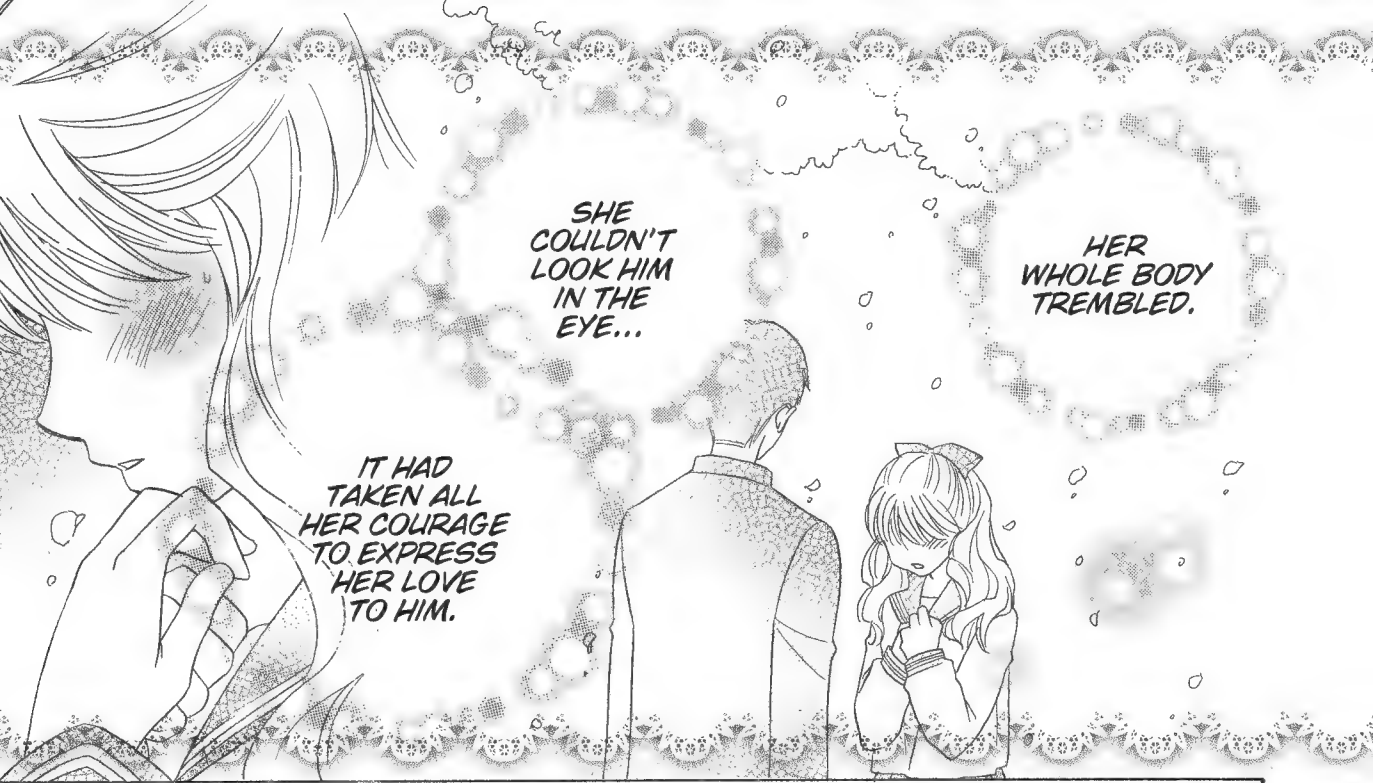
IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE.

IF THIS
DESSERT
TURNS
OUT ALL
RIGHT...



I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
TO TELL
YOU!

CHAPTER 13 END

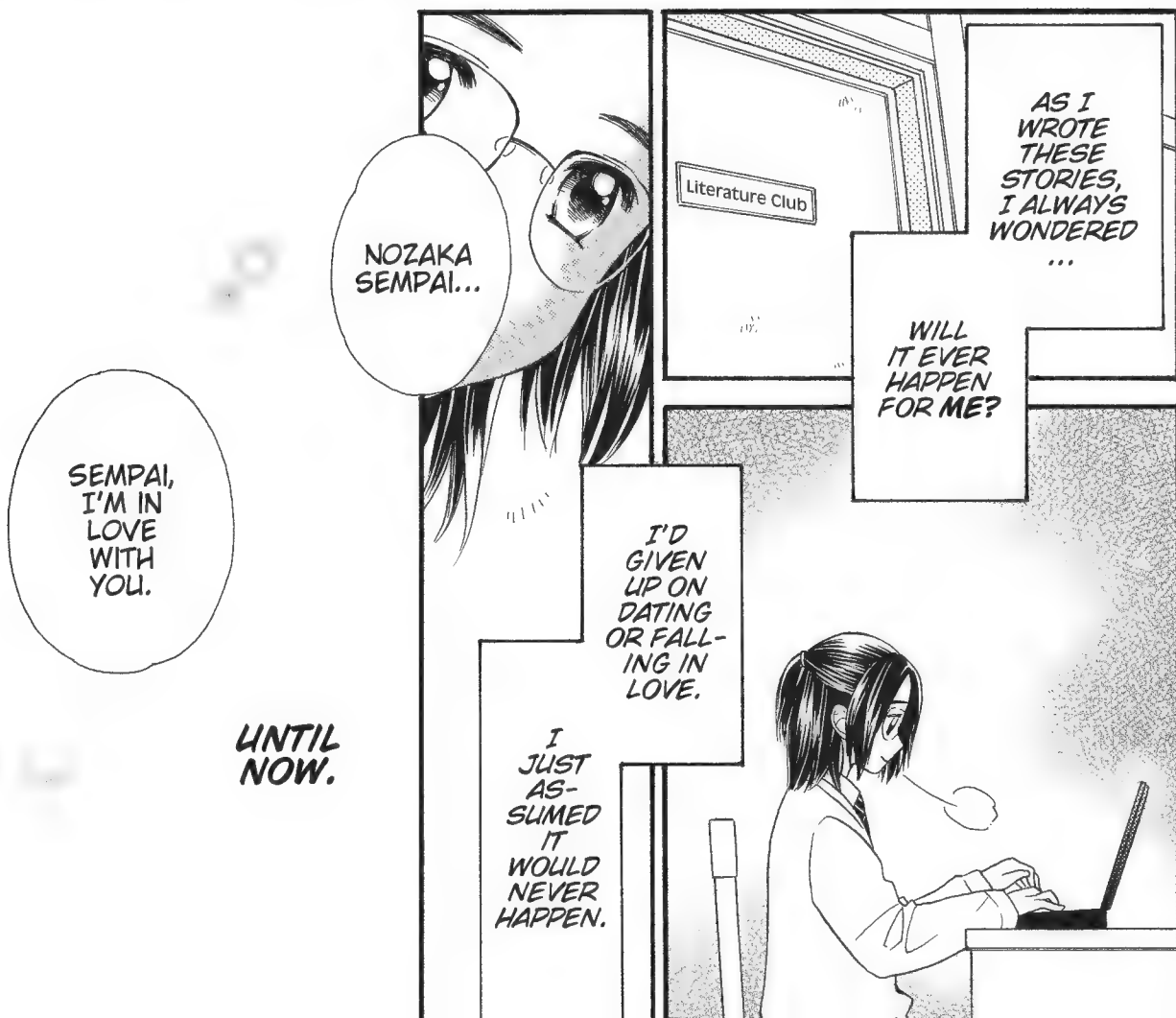


SHE
COULDN'T
LOOK HIM
IN THE
EYE...

HER
WHOLE BODY
TREMBLED.

IT HAD
TAKEN ALL
HER COURAGE
TO EXPRESS
HER LOVE
TO HIM.

I WONDER IF THAT'S HOW IT REALLY FEELS...



NOZAKA
SEMPAI...

SEMPAI,
I'M IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU.

UNTIL
NOW.

Literature Club

AS I
WROTE
THESE
STORIES,
I ALWAYS
WONDERED
...

WILL
IT EVER
HAPPEN
FOR ME?

I'D
GIVEN
UP ON
DATING
OR FALL-
ING IN
LOVE.

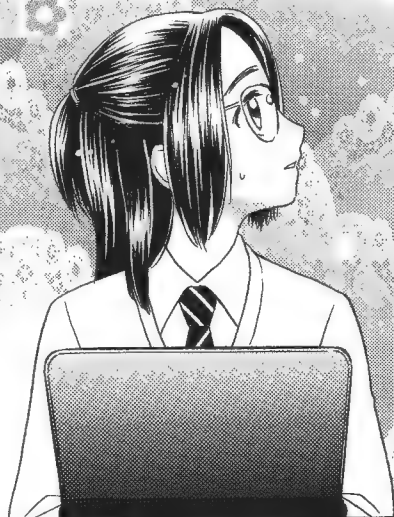
I
JUST
AS-
SUMED
IT
WOULD
NEVER
HAPPEN.

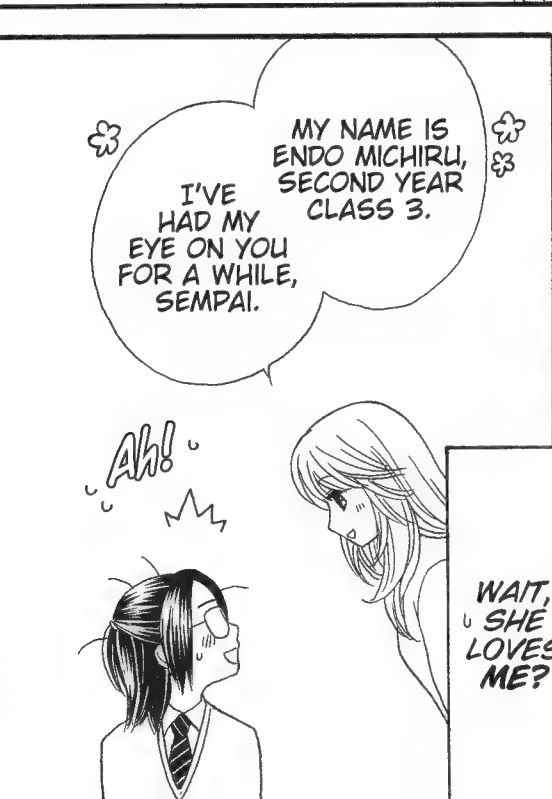
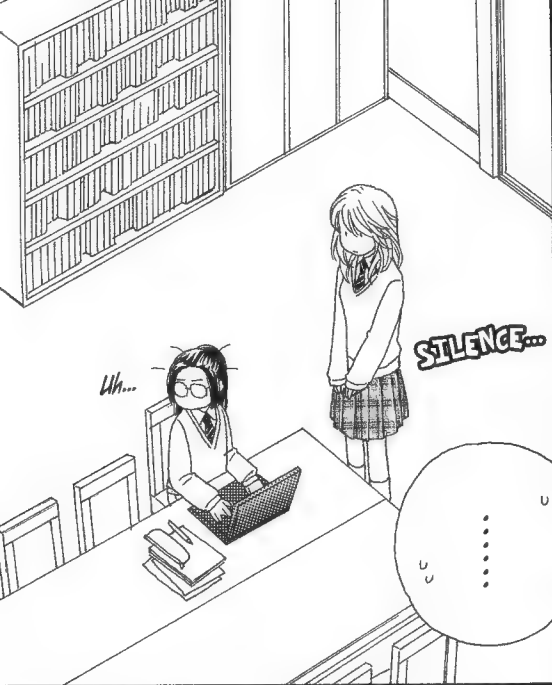
FINAL CHAPTER
MY TRUE FEELINGS

IT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME ANYONE
HAD EVER
CONFESSED
LOVE TO ME.

WILL YOU
GO OUT
WITH ME?

AND...
IT
WAS A
GIRL.







IT'S
UNUSUAL
FOR
SOMEONE
TO JOIN
THE CLUB
AT THIS
TIME OF
YEAR...

HOW
COULD I
FORGET
HER?

PRETTY
GIRLS LIKE
HER DON'T
USUALLY
JOIN THE
LITERATURE
CLUB.

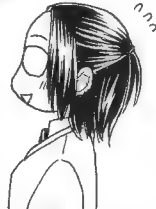
SHE...

REALLY?!
I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
NOT SINCE I
ONLY JOINED
RECENTLY.



We only
have three
Second Year
students.

I-I KNOW
WHO
YOU
ARE,
ENDO-
SAN.



SHE
LOOKS
LIKE...

THE
HEROINE
OF A
ROMANCE
STORY.



DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
SERIOUS...

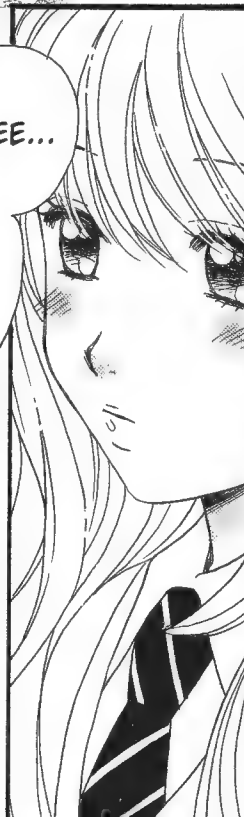
C'mon!

BESIDES
...

UH...
THE
THING
IS...

WHAT I
WANT
TO
KNOW...

IS
WHY
ME?



SEE...



SEMPAI...
CAN I
GET AN
ANSWER?

WELL...

Um...



I'VE NEVER
BEEN MORE
SERIOUS ABOUT
ANYTHING.

WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...



I'M
IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
SEMPAI.



O-O-KAY...
I GUESS
WE CAN
START
OUT AS
FRIENDS...



I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHY SHE
CHOSE
ME,
BUT...

IT
MUST
HAVE
TAKEN
A LOT OF
GLITS...

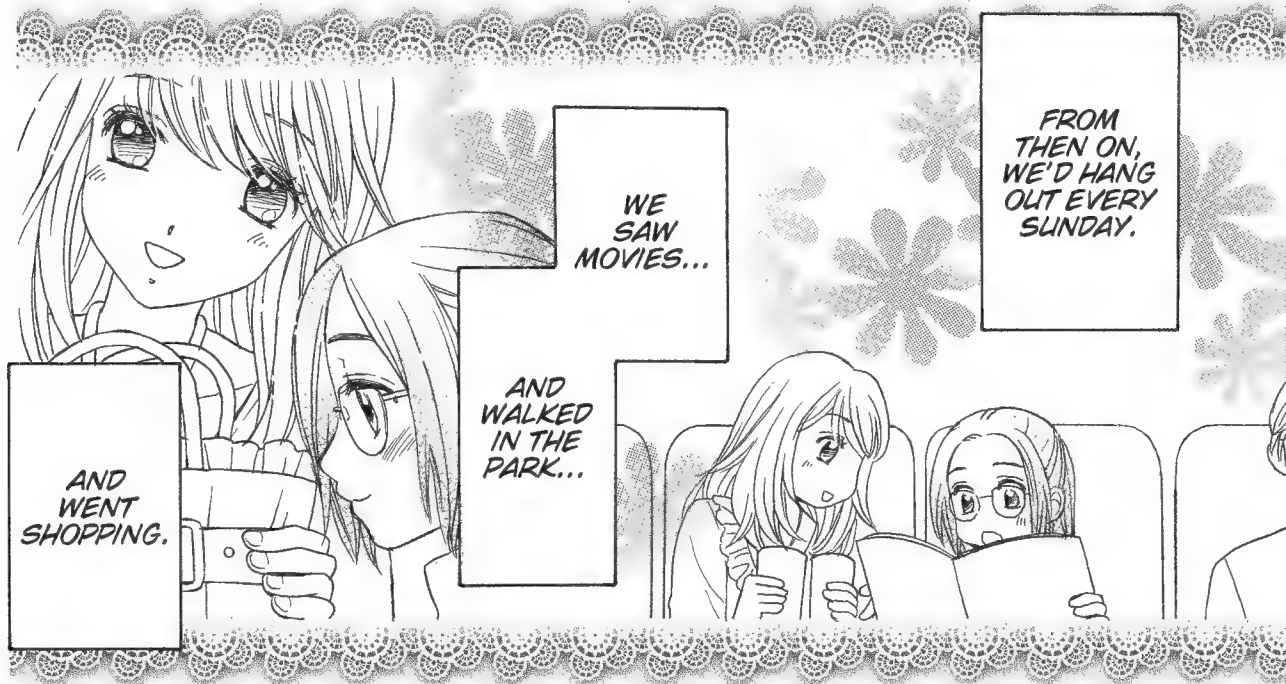
TO ASK
ANOTHER
GIRL OUT.

THANK
YOU!

I
COULDN'T
TURN HER
DOWN.



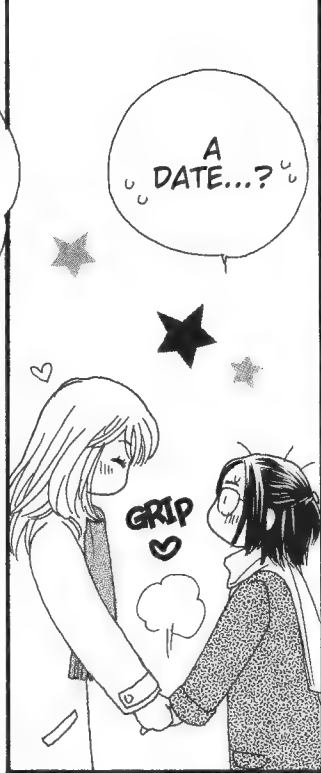
I WONDER IF IT FEELS THE SAME WAY GETTING A TEXT FROM A GUY.





I HAD A GREAT TIME!
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL TOMORROW!

HAVE WE BEEN GOING ON DATES?



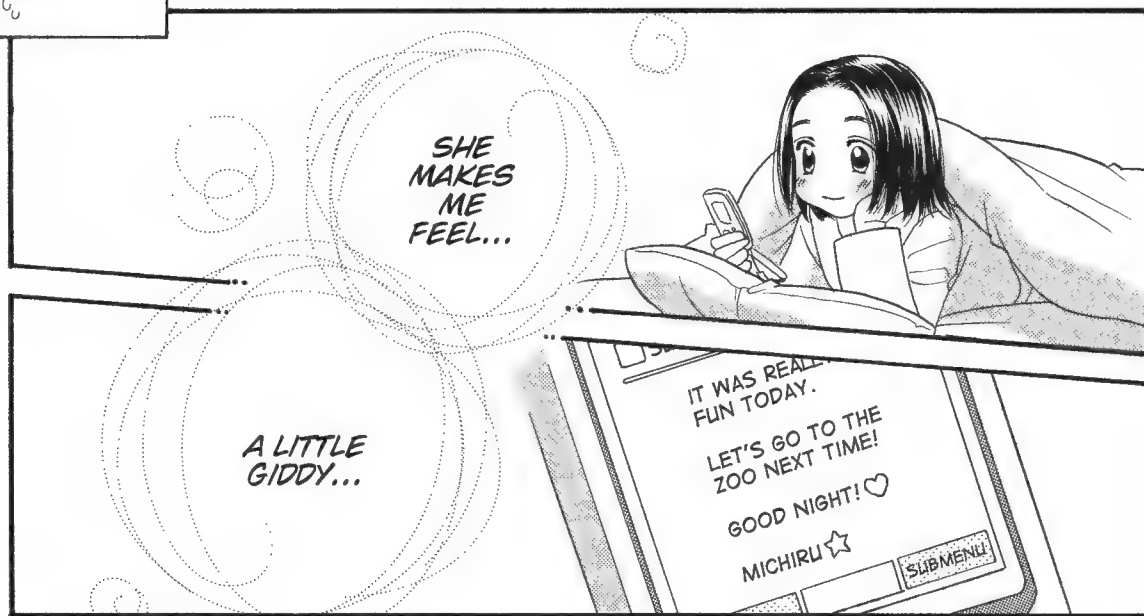
GRIP

A DATE...?



WE DID THE SAME THINGS I WOULD DO WITH OTHER FEMALE FRIENDS.

LET'S GO ON A DATE AGAIN SOON, SEMPAI!



SHE MAKES ME FEEL...

A LITTLE GIDDY...

IT WAS REALLY FUN TODAY.

LET'S GO TO THE ZOO NEXT TIME!

GOOD NIGHT! ♥

MICHIRU ☆

SUBMENU



NOZAKACCHI...



Hmmm...

I WONDER...

MAYBE I'M INTO GIRLS AFTER ALL.



Gotcha!

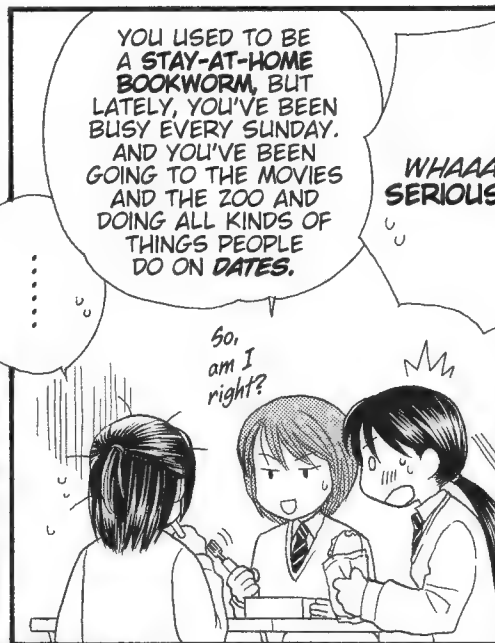
YOU'VE
GOT A
BOYFRIEND,
DON'T YA?



I DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
GET A BOY-
FRIEND
BEFORE
ME...

Sigh.

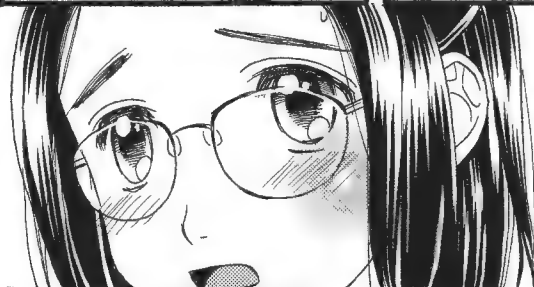
WHAT'S
HE LIKE?
WE NEED
DETAILS!



YOU USED TO BE
A **STAY-AT-HOME**
BOOKWORM, BUT
LATELY, YOU'VE BEEN
BUSY EVERY SUNDAY.
AND YOU'VE BEEN
GOING TO THE MOVIES
AND THE ZOO AND
DOING ALL KINDS OF
THINGS PEOPLE
DO ON **DATES**.

WHAAAT?!
SERIOUSLY?!

So,
am I
right?



WELL...

WELL,
FIRST OF
ALL, I'M
DATING
A GIRL,
NOT A
GUY...

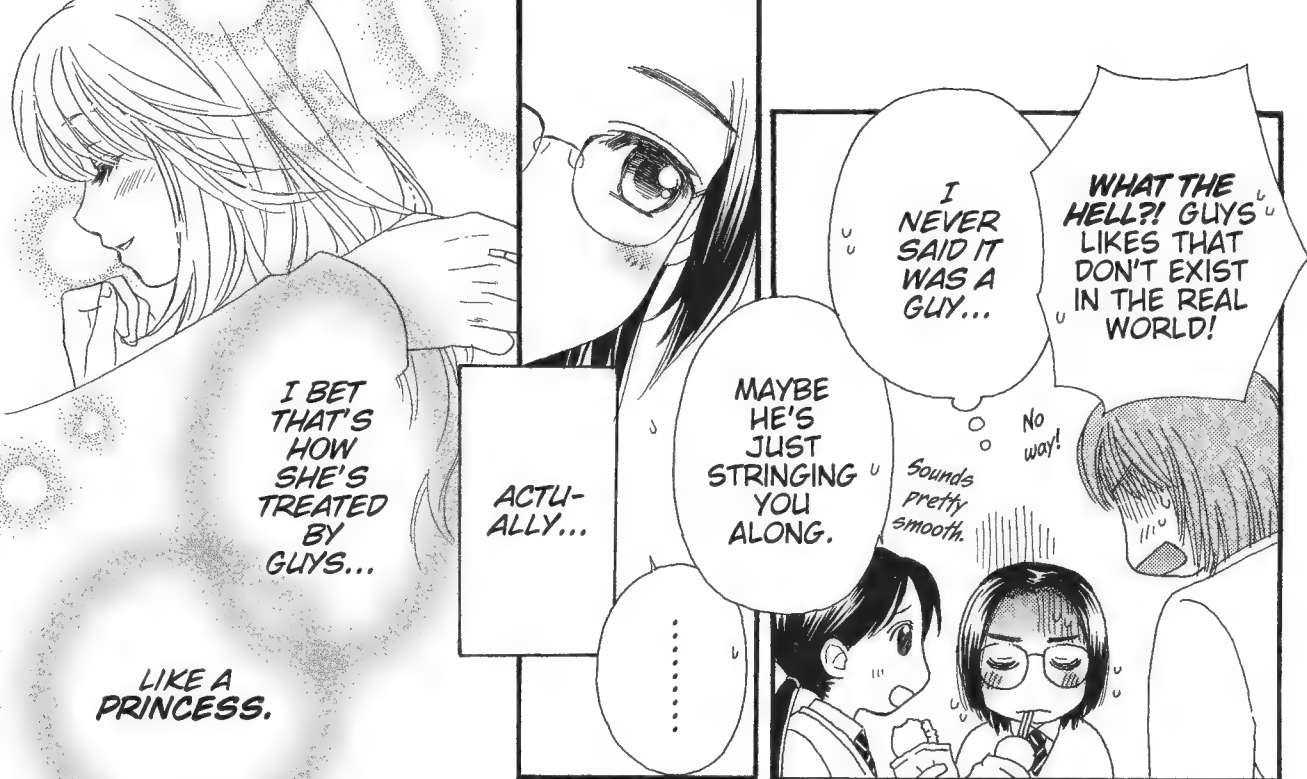


MY
UMBRELLA
IS SHAKEN
OFF BEFORE
ENTERING
STORES...

AND PUT
IT IN A
PLASTIC
SLEEVE.

AND WHEN
WE'RE WALKING
TOGETHER, I'M
ALWAYS ON THE
INSIDE, PRO-
TECTED FROM
PASSING
CARS...

UHM... AT
RESTAURANTS,
THE CHAIR IS
PULLED OUT
BEFORE I SIT
DOWN...



I BET
THAT'S
HOW
SHE'S
TREATED
BY
GUYS...

LIKE A
PRINCESS.

ACTU-
ALLY...

MAYBE
HE'S
JUST
STRINGING
YOU
ALONG.

I
NEVER
SAID IT
WAS A
GUY...

WHAT THE
HELL?! GUYS
LIKES THAT
DON'T EXIST
IN THE REAL
WORLD!

No way!
Sounds
pretty
smooth.



HI,
SEMPAI!



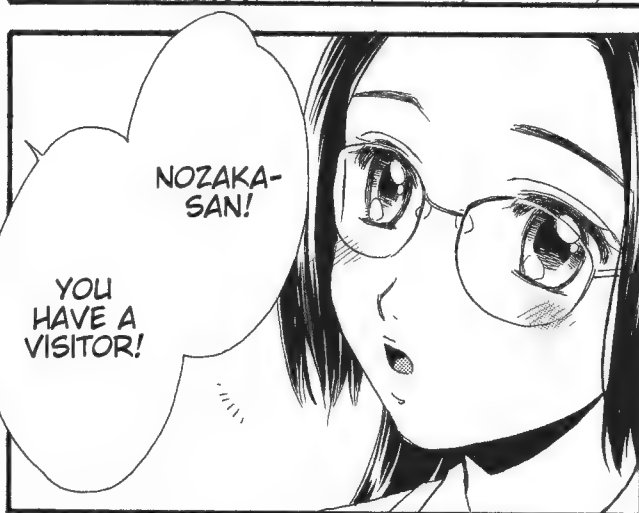
EH...

Good
for
you!

DON'T
WORRY! IT
SOUNDS
LIKE HE
REALLY
CARES
FOR YOU.

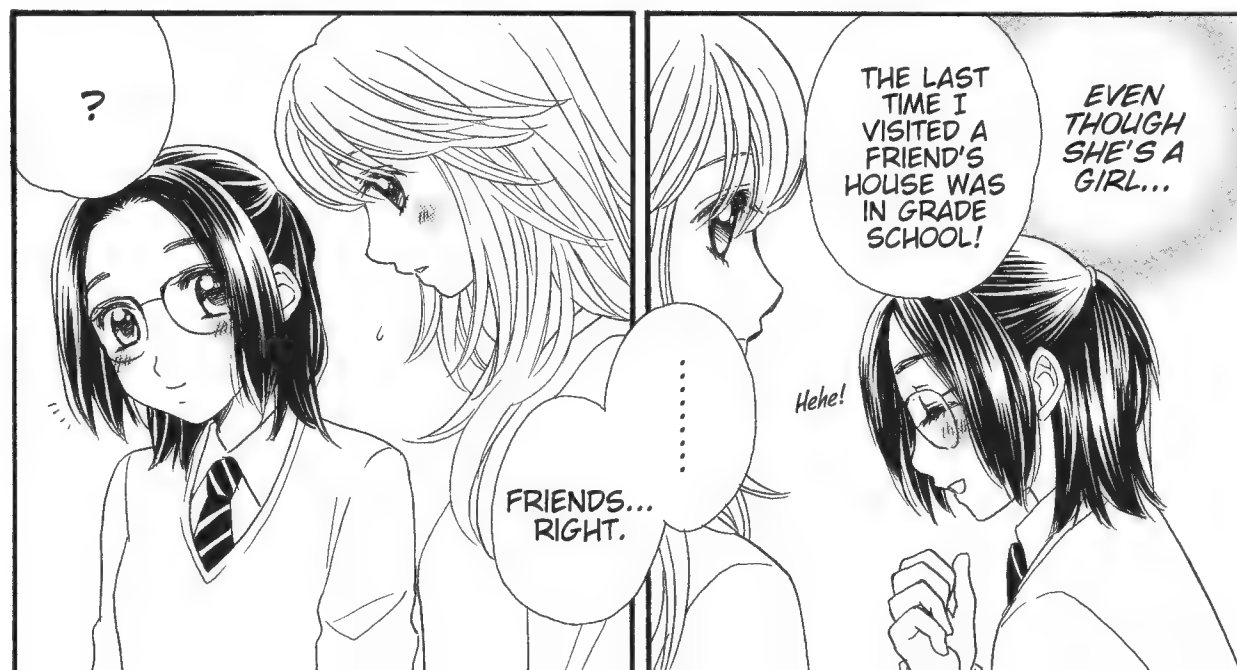
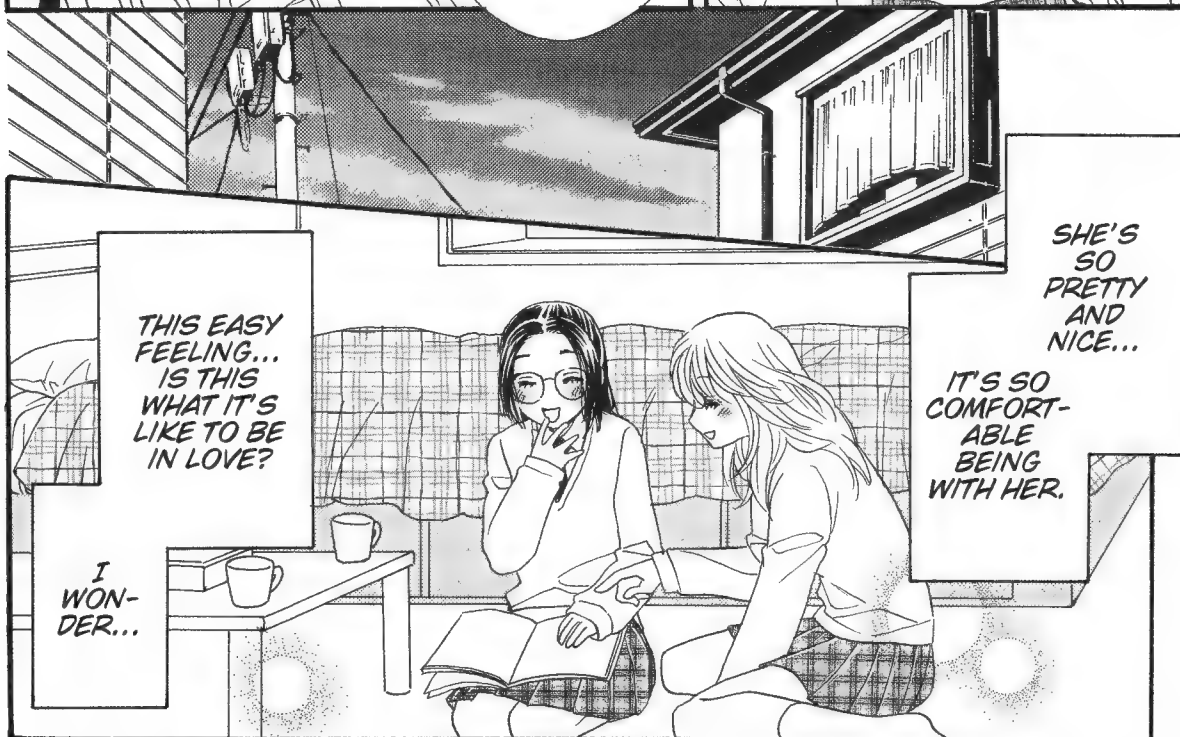
CONGRATS,
NOZA-
KACCHI.

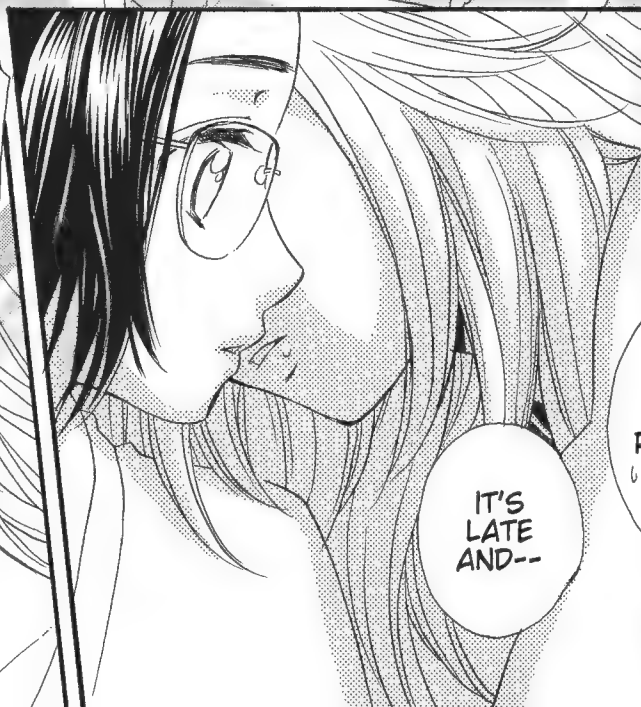
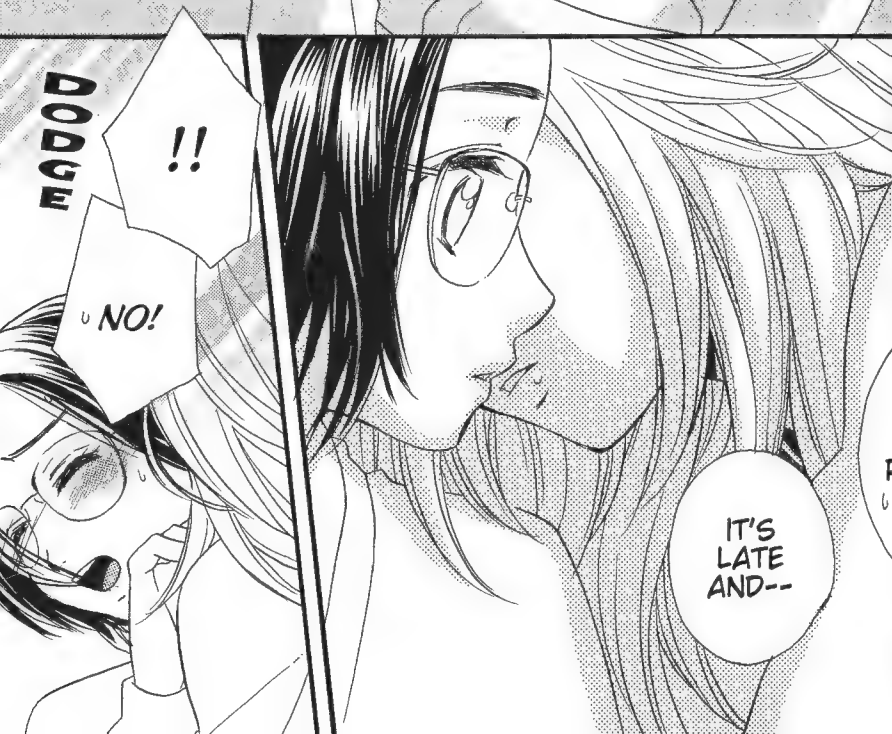
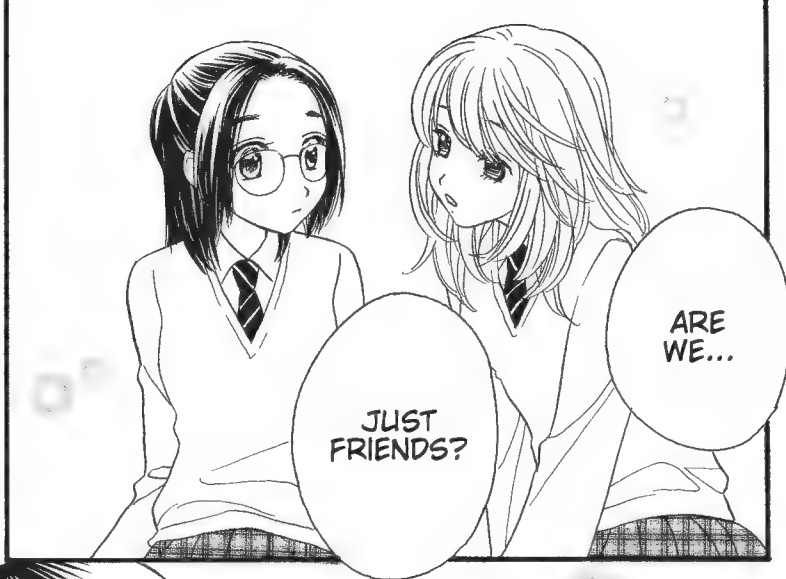
Really?

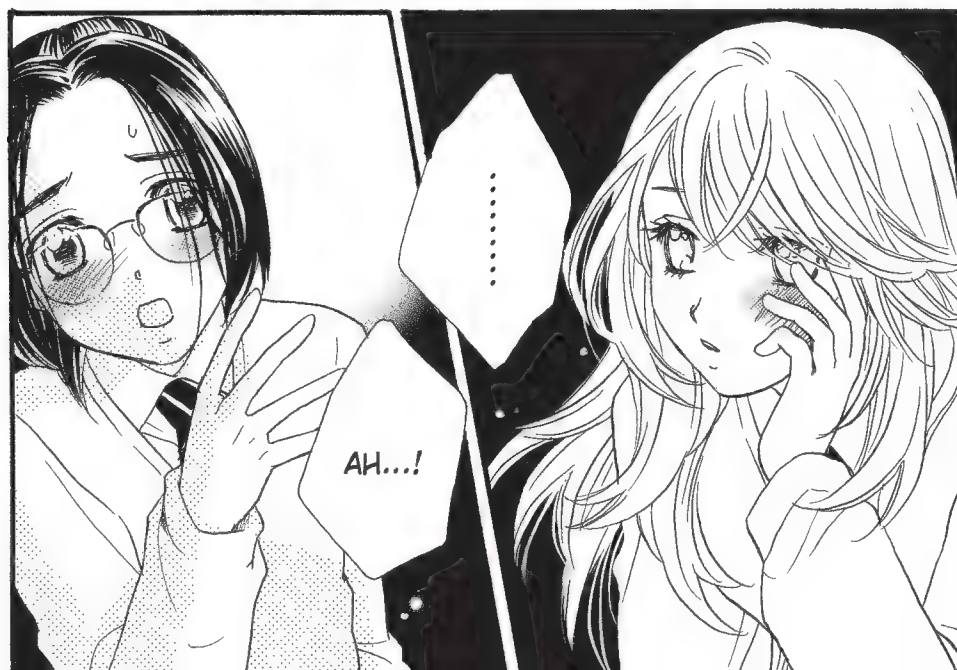
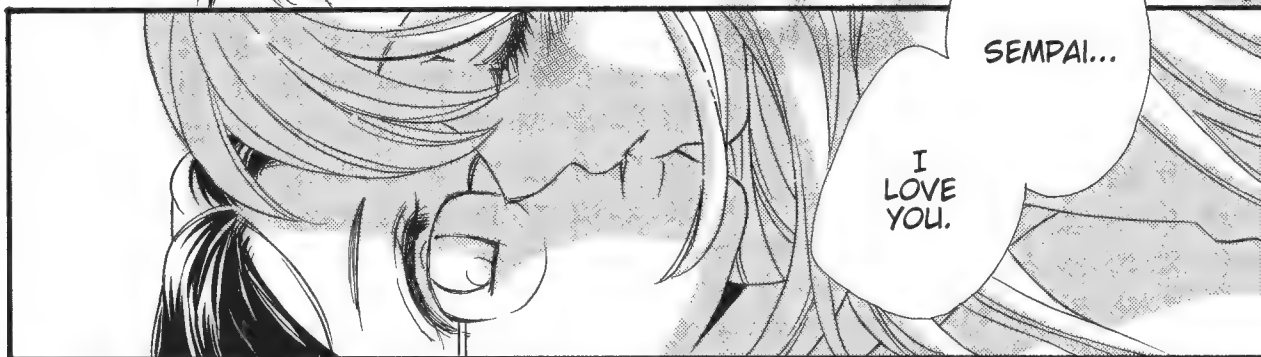


NOZAKA-
SAN!

YOU
HAVE A
VISITOR!







SLAP!



IT'S
NOT
ENDO'S
FAULT...

SHE
TOLD ME
FROM
THE
START
THAT SHE
LIKED ME...

I'M...

SUCH A
JERK.

BUT I
NEVER
TOOK HER
FEELINGS
SERIOUSLY.

THAT
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS.



I WAS JUST
HAPPY TO HAVE
SOMEONE WHO
LOVED ME.

IT FELT
SO GOOD
TO BE
LOVED...

BUT I WAS
TAKING
ADVANTAGE
OF HER.

NO...



I WAS
ONLY
THINKING...

ABOUT
MYSELF.

1 NO NEW EMAILS

OK

A5403CA

I'M AN AWFUL PERSON.

GOOD
MORNING,
NOZAKACCHI.

SOMETHING
WRONG?
YOU SEEM
A LITTLE
BIT DOWN
TODAY.

NOZAKA-
SEMPAI.

WE HAVE
LITERATURE
CLUB
TODAY.

AFTER
WHAT I
DID?

HOW
CAN I
FACE
HER...



HUH...?

I GOT MY
HAIR CUT!
DO YOU
LIKE IT?

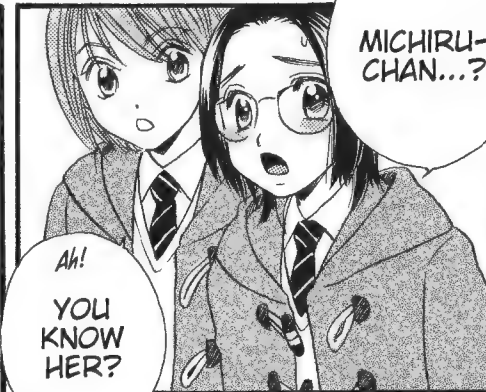


CHUCKLE

DON'T
WORRY.

IT'S NOT
BECAUSE
OF WHAT
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
US.

I
KNOW,
BUT...



MICHIRU-
CHAN...?

Ah!
YOU
KNOW
HER?



YOU CUT
YOUR LONG,
BEAUTIFUL
HAIR...

BECAUSE
I BROKE
YOUR
HEART?



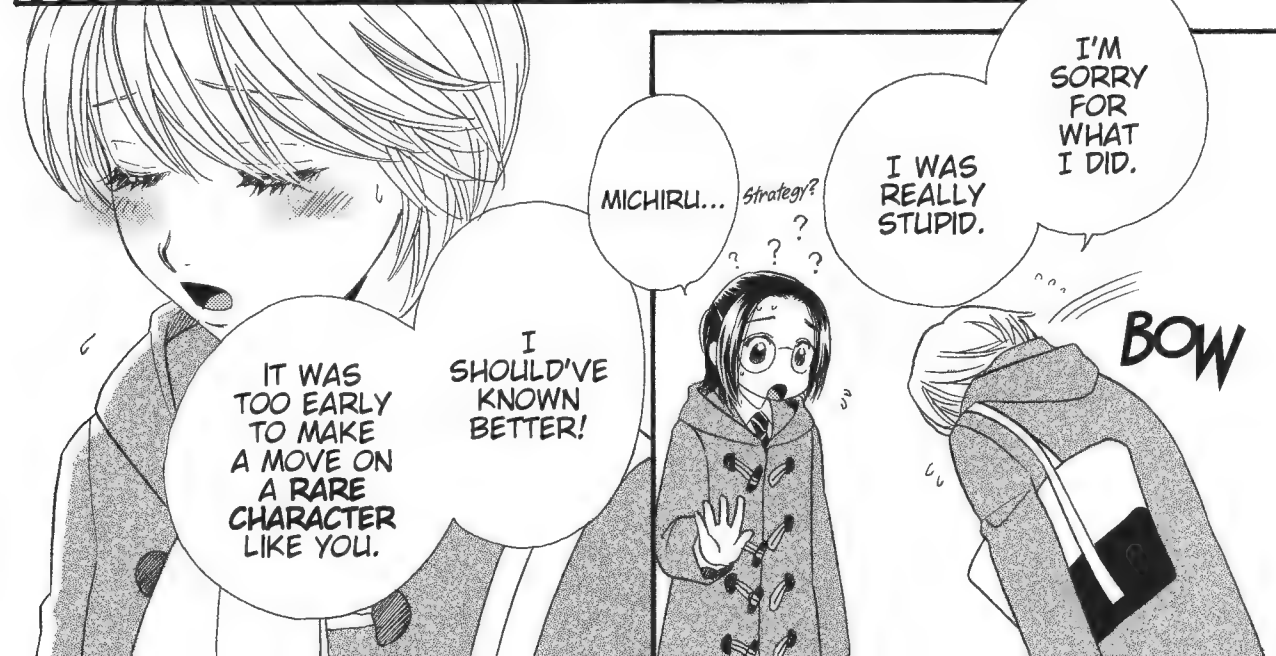
SMILE



AFTER YESTERDAY, I FIGURED I'D BETTER CHANGE MY STRATEGY!

Eheh! ♡

SEMPAI, I ASSUMED YOU LIKED CUTE GIRLY-GIRLS, BUT...



IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A MOVE ON A RARE CHARACTER LIKE YOU.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER!

MICHIRU... Strategy?

I WAS REALLY STUPID.

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID.

BOW



*1912-1926; a transition period in Japanese history between the feudal and modern eras.



EACH
STORY WAS
EVEN MORE
UNBELIEVABLE
AND FANTASTIC
THAN THE
LAST!

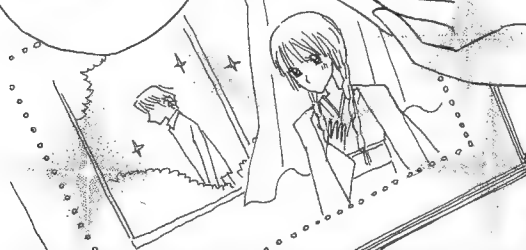


EVEN THE
ILLUSTRATIONS
WERE
STRAIGHT
OUT OF
SOMEONE'S
FANTASY!

A GIRL
WORKING
AT A FLOWER
SHOP FALLS
FOR AN OLDER,
DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSOR...

A GIRL WITH
A FATAL LUNG
DISEASE FALLS
HOPELESSLY IN
LOVE WITH THE
SANATORIUM'S
STRAPPING
YOUNG
GARDENER...

A CLERK IN
A BOOKSTORE
FALLS HEAD
OVER HEELS
IN LOVE WITH
A STRUGGLING
STUDENT...



OH,
NOZAKA-
SEMPAI?

I HAD
TO KNOW
MORE
ABOUT THE
AUTHOR
BEHIND THE
STORIES.

← Club Member

THAT'S
HER...

OVER
THERE.

I DIDN'T
THINK
ANYONE
OUTSIDE
OUR CLUB
WOULD
READ IT!

I hid all
the extra
copies so no
one would
find out!

B-
BUT...

NOZAKACCHI...
YOU WRITE
THAT KIND
OF STUFF?

Urkk!

I just
couldn't get
enough!

I
THOUGHT
THEY WERE
ADORABLE.
I WAS
HOOKED!

I
TRACKED
DOWN ALL
THE OLD
ISSUES AND
DEVoured
THEM.

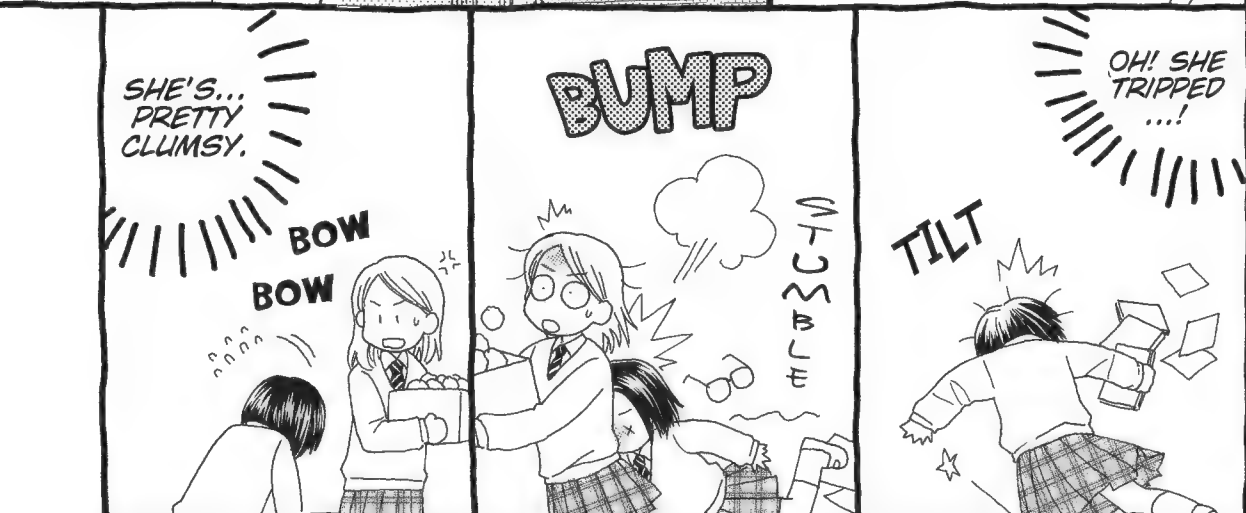


IT
SHE'S
KIND OF
PLAIN.

SH-SHE'S
NOTHING
LIKE THE
HEROINES
IN HER
STORIES...

TAP

TAP



SHE'S...
PRETTY
CLUMSY.

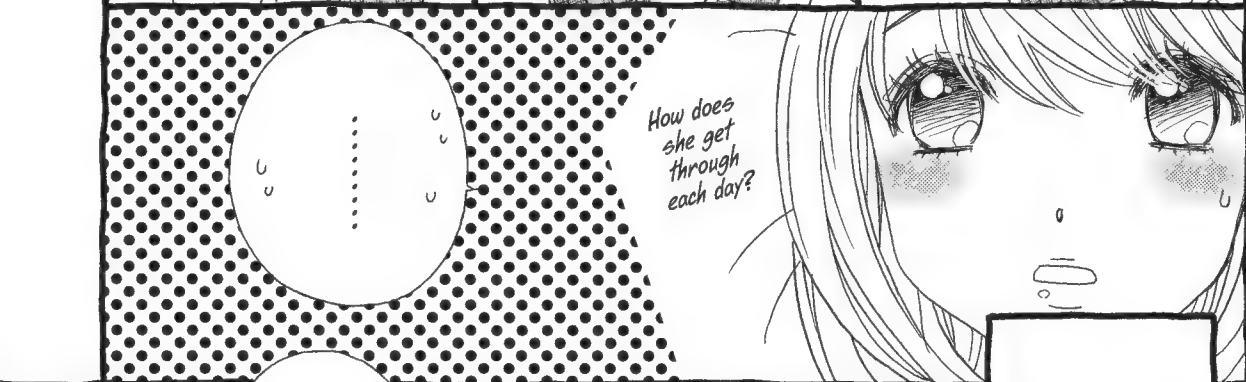
BOW
BOW

BUMP

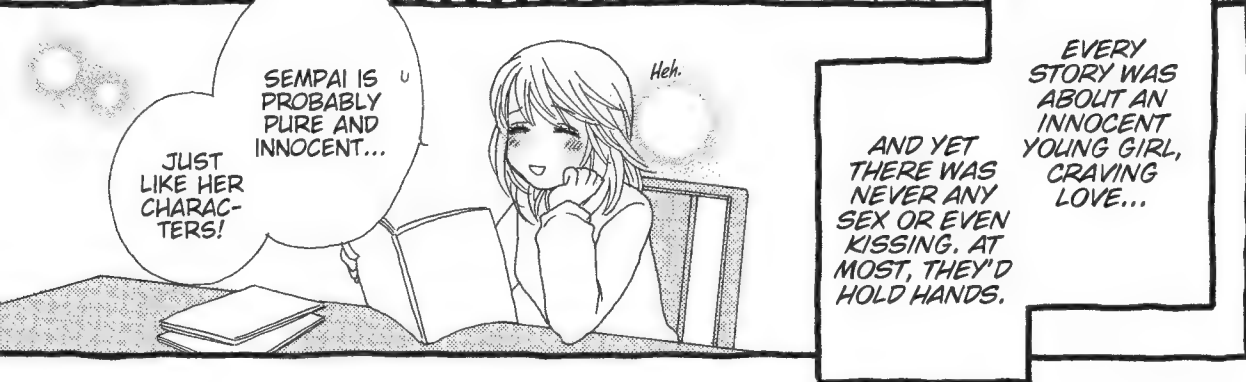
BOUNC

TILT

OH! SHE
TRIPPED
...!



How does
she get
through
each day?



JUST
LIKE HER
CHARAC-
TERS!

SEMPAI IS
PROBABLY
PURE AND
INNOCENT...

Heh.

AND YET
THERE WAS
NEVER ANY
SEX OR EVEN
KISSING. AT
MOST, THEY'D
HOLD HANDS.

EVERY
STORY WAS
ABOUT AN
INNOCENT
YOUNG GIRL,
CRAVING
LOVE...



Wheee!

There she goes again.

TRIP

SEMPAI GOT INTO SO MANY ACCIDENTS. I KEPT AN EYE ON HER, JUST IN CASE.

THEN, ONE NIGHT...

I HAD A DREAM ABOUT YOU.

UH...

IN MY DREAM, SOME JERK WAS TRYING TO GET SEMPAI TO GO TO A LOVE HOTEL.

WHAT?!

BUT I SHOT IN WITH THIS AMAZING DROPKICK AND SAVED YOU!

OH.

AND FROM THAT DAY ON I... I...

MICHIRO-CHAN...

BA-THUMP

SEMPAI IS SO SWEET AND PURE! GUYS CAN SENSE THAT! THEY'LL BE ALL OVER YOU!

NO MATTER HOW PLAIN AND CLUMSY YOU ARE, YOU'LL STILL BE INVITED TO PARTIES AND BLIND DATES.

YOU GRADUATE NEXT YEAR! AND THEN YOU'RE OFF TO COLLEGE!

SEMPAI, I WORRY ABOUT YOU SOOO MUCH!

INNOCENCE LOST

~~~~~

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN YOU.

YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

LIKE LAST NIGHT! IF IT HAD BEEN A GUY INSTEAD OF ME, HE WOULD'VE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF YOU!

BUT YOU DO HAVE A HARD TIME SAYING NO.

THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME, BUT...

I'M NOT THAT CLUMSY.

There there...

R-RIGHT...

Urk...

ACTUALLY...

No...

You're lucky, Noza-kacchi.

What a sweet girl.

I think...

SO BASICALLY, YOU WANNA PROTECT NOZA-KACCHI BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER?

SORRY TO BUTT IN...

I WANT TO GET TO HER BEFORE ANYONE ELSE...

'CAUSE SHE'S MINE.



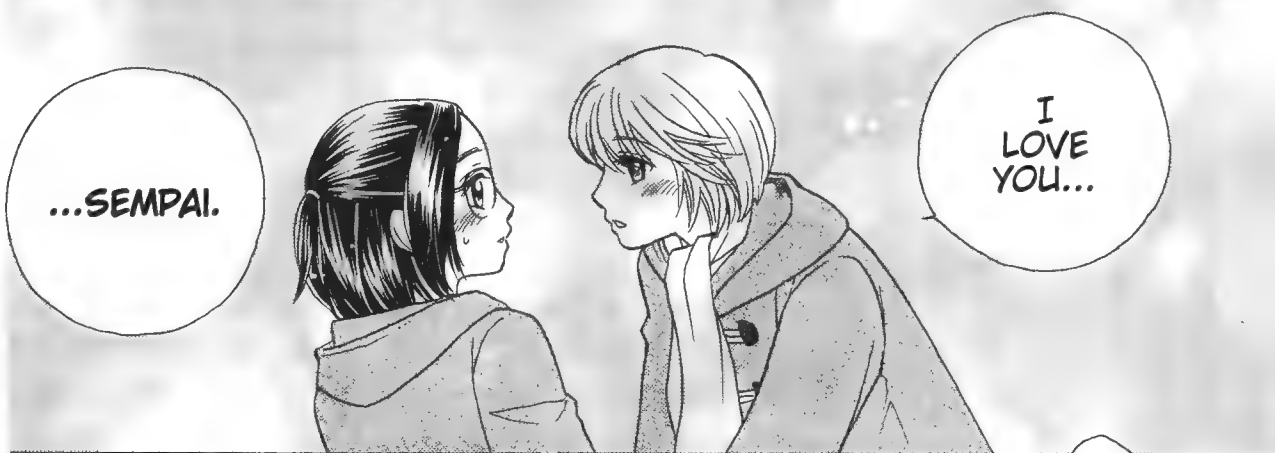
Heh



I JUST WANT TO LAY MY CLAIM ON HER BEFORE SOME GUY DOES.

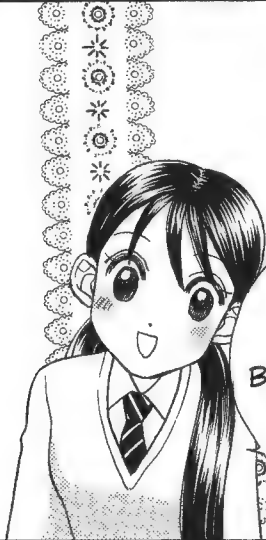
POINK  
POINK









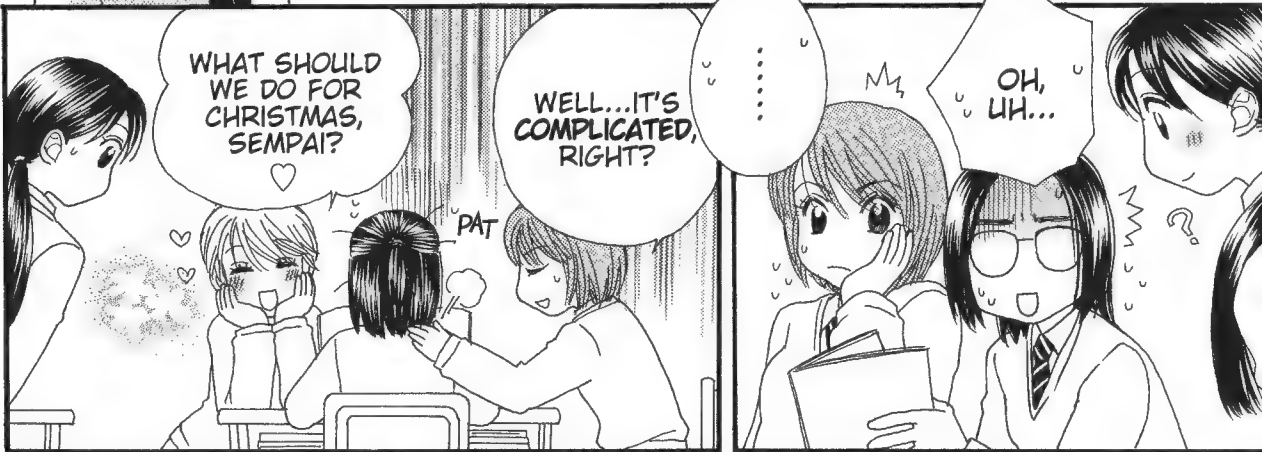


HOW'S  
YOUR  
BOYFRIEND  
DOING?

HEY,  
NOZA-  
KACCHI...

BUT  
NOW...

BEFORE I  
ONLY DREAMT  
ABOUT SUCH  
THINGS.



WHAT SHOULD  
WE DO FOR  
CHRISTMAS,  
SEMPAI?

WELL...IT'S  
COMPLICATED,  
RIGHT?

OH,  
UH...

Sigh.

BUT I  
WANTED  
TO  
DREAM...

JUST A  
LITTLE  
LONGER...

SORRY,  
BUT THAT'S  
NOT GOING  
TO HAPPEN.

I'm not  
"Friend A."

I'll wear my  
sexiest outfit  
and lure the  
guys away  
from Sempai.

FRIEND A,  
PLEASE CALL  
ME WHEN  
YOU TAKE  
SEMPAI OUT  
PARTYING!

THE END





There may be  
a few people who  
only bought volume 1, but  
I only wrote comments  
in volume 2. Sorry. I'm  
really glad to see this  
series released...  
but... but...

TREMBLE  
TREMBLE



Good afternoon,  
this is Milk Morinaga!  
Thank you for purchasing  
"Kisses, Sighs,  
and Cherry  
Blossom Pink"  
Volumes 1  
and 2!!

These volumes are a  
compilation of old short  
stories from many years  
ago, unpublished episodes,  
and new material. Two of  
the unpublished episodes  
are in volume 1. I hope  
you enjoyed them!!

Hehe.

Gotta  
drink  
away the  
shame...



When I compare my past works  
with my current works, I don't think  
I've improved much... But... Looking  
back at my old artwork is  
pure torture.

GLUG

After  
nine  
years...

My  
art...

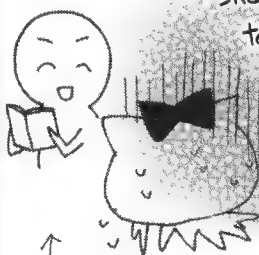
It's  
okay!  
Your  
style's  
consistent.

Hasn't  
changed  
much.

Maybe I  
should switch  
to digital.

GASP  
GASP

Comic  
Pages



My friend always says nice things.

The first five episodes in  
volume 2 continue Hitomi and  
Nana's story. The episodes  
from volume 1 and the last  
two episodes of this volume  
were previously printed from  
2003 to 2006. 2003...  
so long ago!

In that time...

Nine  
years?!

An elementary  
student becomes  
an adult!!

0 years  
old

10 years  
old

Middle-  
aged  
cat!!!

A little  
kitty





What?  
Us?

Before, I wanted to  
make these girls  
cause a little  
more trouble



Six years ago, I had  
a plan in mind for  
Nana and Hitomi, but  
when I actually drew  
their story it turned  
out quite different.  
The message I wanted  
to convey had changed,  
so I rolled with it and  
enjoyed the process.

But I  
ran out  
of pages!

Even the "latest" of  
the old batch was six  
years ago... So when I  
drew the new stories,  
I tried to match that  
style... Did it come  
out all right?



I look  
a little  
strange,  
don't I?



It took a while, but I was able to tie  
up a lot of loose ends and make  
Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom  
Pink into a complete story.

✿ Editors Niwano-san & Nonaka-san

✿ People who assisted: Mimi-  
chin, A-yo chan, Furiko-  
tan, and other helpers.

✿ Publishing staff who helped to  
print and sell these books.

✿ Fans who waited patiently  
for the additional episodes!

Everyone who read these books.

Thank you  
very much!



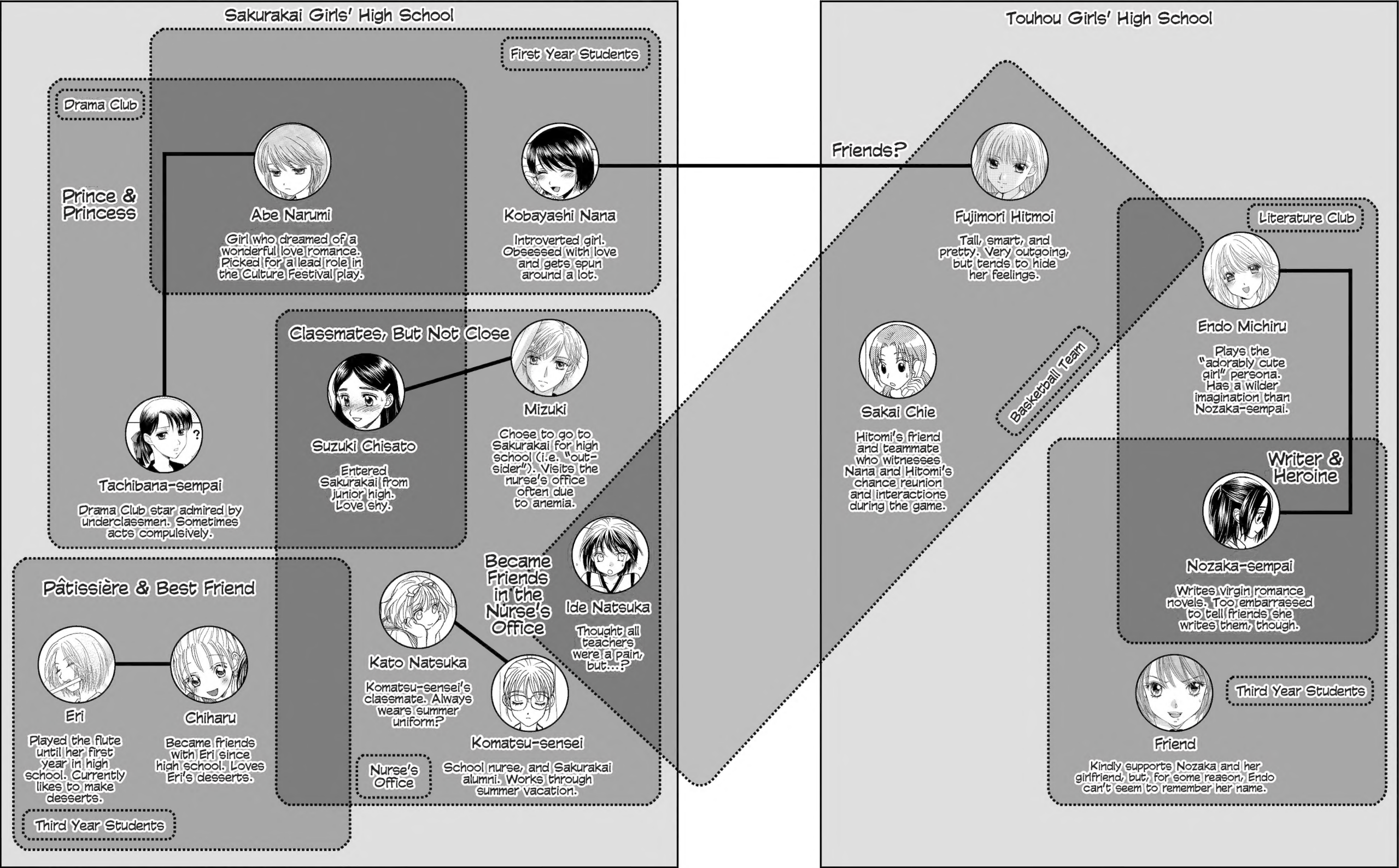
Milk Morinaga  
April 2012





# Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink

## CHARACTER RELATIONSHIP CHART





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# *Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink*

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA**

**VOLUME 2**

TRANSLATION  
**Anastasia Moreno**

ADAPTATION  
**Shannon Fay**

LETTERING AND RETOUCH  
**Jennifer Skarupa**

COVER DESIGN  
**Nicky Lim**

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
**Holly Kolodziejczak**

EDITOR  
**Adam Arnold**

PUBLISHER  
**Jason DeAngelis**

KISSES, SIGHS, AND CHERRY BLOSSOM PINK VOL. 2

© MIRUKU MORINAGA 2003

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2012 by Futabasha Publishers Ltd., Tokyo.

English version published by Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.

Under license from Futabasha Publishers Ltd.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by e-mail at [MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com](mailto:MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com).

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

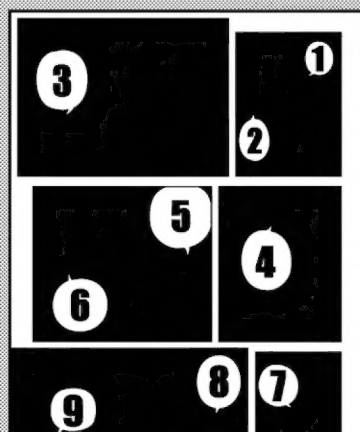
Ebook Edition: December 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: [www.gomanga.com](http://www.gomanga.com)

## READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it will get the hang of it before you know it.





**From Milk Morinaga, the  
author of the *New York Times*  
bestselling manga *Girl Friends*!**

When the cherry blossoms bloom it means the start of another school year—and for the girls at Sakurakai High, it signals the birth of new dreams, fears, and relationships. In this *yuri* romance collection, lifelong friends become lovers, the ghosts of old crushes are put to rest, and hearts break and are mended. Fourteen stories of love between girls are interspersed throughout this heartfelt and adorably illustrated manga omnibus edition.

An illustration of two anime-style girls in a romantic pose. The girl on the left has long, light brown hair and is wearing a tan jacket over a blue shirt. She is looking down at the girl on the right with a gentle smile. The girl on the right has short, dark blue hair and is wearing a blue jacket with a thick, light brown fur collar and a large floral brooch. She is looking up at the first girl with a similar expression. The background is a soft, light pink.

**OLDER TEEN (16+)**

Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.  
[www.gomanga.com](http://www.gomanga.com)  
Distributed by Macmillan